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PADDINGTON BEAR FINDS HIMSELF ON BRITISH CENSORS' NAUGHTY LIST

BELOVED CHARACTER'S CREATOR 'AMAZED' U.K. FILM AUTHORITIES FOUND SEXUAL INNUENDO IN NEW BIG-SCREEN TALE PAGE 35

Controversial men's group wants fresh start

Director of Canadian Association For Equality says he's not a 'men's rights' activist, hopes to clear his group's image PAGE 4

Putting Bigfoot on endangered species list

Sasquatch researcher to petition U.S. Congress on protecting the mythical(?) creature he believes lives in remote wooded area PAGE 18

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Ontario schools failing sexual assault victims

Special investigation.
Of the Ontario colleges and universities surveyed, none have sexual assault policies

Tess Klaver was an 18-year-old first-year student at Queen's University the year she says her boyfriend pinned her on his bed, choked her with his hands, then grabbed her hair and forced her to perform oral sex.

"We had been kind of fooling around and I was in my underwear and then he pinned me down.... I was screaming and saying no.... Once I was being choked I couldn't say no anymore," she recalls.

It was the middle of the day in the fall of 2011. Klaver and her boyfriend were both students at the Kingston university.

Klaver eventually notified her department at Queen's and sought help from a school counsellor. She said both let her down. She did not report the assault to police.

Her story makes her among as many as one in five young women who experts estimate will experience some form of sexual assault during their time at college or university.

A three-month-long Torstar News Service investigation has found that only nine of 78 Canadian universities have created a special sexual assault policy, considered a necessary step in dealing with the problem of sexual violence on Canadian campuses. Torstar also surveyed 24 colleges in Ontario and found none had a special policy.

Among universities yet to adopt a special policy are the big three in Toronto — the University of Toronto, Ryerson University and York University, though York has promised a draft policy next year and U of T is studying the issue.

Lakehead University in Thunder Bay developed a strong policy in the wake of a student's sexual assault.

Lori Chambers, a professor at Lakehead who helped implement the school's new "sexual misconduct policy," said governments should compel all schools to adopt a similar set of rules.

"I think it's really important that every institution have a policy about sexual misconduct that states explicitly what behaviours are prohibited, the rights victims have and the supports available to help them heal," Chambers said.

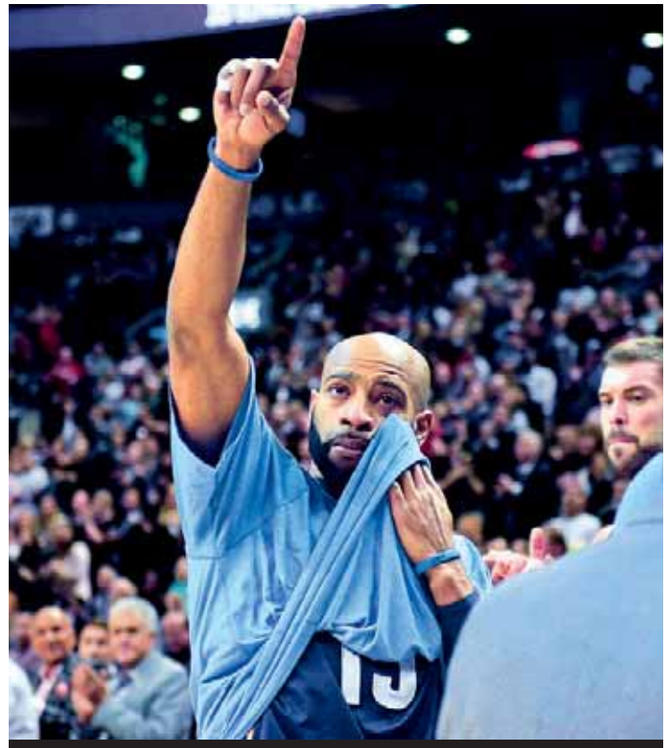
Two weeks before Christmas break the year that she was attacked, Klaver says she walked to the shores of Lake Ontario at 3 a.m., took off all her clothing, jumped off a pier into the freezing water and waited to see if she wanted to die. After two minutes, limbs numb, she pulled herself out.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

To read the full story, go to metronews.ca.

Sex, lies and celebrity

With celebrities like Bill Cosby and Jian Ghomeshi being accused of sexual assault by a growing list of women, are survivors of abuse turning to social media — and the court of public opinion — to get the conviction that may not be found through the courts? See story, page 30.



VINSANITY TRIBUTE

Teary-eyed former Raptor Vince Carter, now a member of the Memphis Grizzlies, acknowledges applause from the crowd at the ACC on Wednesday during a tribute to him from the Toronto Raptors. See story, page 47. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Reopening teachers' contracts cost Ontario $468M: Auditor

Labour. Money 'that should have been intended for kids in classrooms went to renegotiate contracts so that Kathleen Wynne would be more popular': Opposition

Premier Kathleen Wynne's decision to reopen contracts for public-school teachers last year cost Ontario taxpayers $468 million, auditor general Bonnie Lysyk reported Wednesday.

The Liberals hoped to save $2.4 billion when they passed legislation in September 2012 to freeze teachers' pay for two years and reduce banked sick days and pension benefits, but the auditor found they gave some of the savings back to the unions.

"The savings were reduced as a result of subsequent discussions," said Lysyk.

Of the total cost, $200 million went toward giving teachers and school board workers more paid sick days, hiring more substitute teachers to cover the sick days and changing the eligibility threshold for retirement benefits, she said.

It cost another $155 million to reduce the number of unpaid professional activity days, give teachers one day's pay if they take fewer than six sick days a year, improve maternity benefits and compensate school boards for increased expenses because of the new deals.

And it cost another $113 million to eliminate wage differences between teachers' unions, which have so-called "me too" clauses so every group benefits when one negotiates a new or increased benefit, added Lysyk.

Quoted

"We're saying that there's $2 billion in savings, but depending on what the courts decide in that situation, it would have an impact on this if there was a ruling against the government."

Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk

"So if you add the $200 million, the $155 (million) and the $113 (million), that is the total for the additional costs," she told reporters.

Wynne was not available for comment on the auditor's report even though she was in question period and attended a cabinet meeting at the legislature Wednesday.

Education Minister Liz Sandals refused to comment on the additional costs for the decision to reopen the teachers' deals and ended up walking away from reporters.

"I am absolutely delighted that we have a new way of doing collective bargaining," Sandals said repeatedly. "We saved what I said we would save."

Public-school teachers withdrew from extracurricular activities and staged protests after the Liberals legislated the two-year wage freeze and blocked the streets outside Maple Leaf Gardens during the Liberal leadership vote in January 2013.

Wynne knew the Liberals needed to get the teachers back on side before the spring election and so she reopened their contracts to appease them, said Progressive Conservative Lisa MacLeod.

"This information would have been better in the hands of moms and dads before the election, but it wasn't," said MacLeod. "Today, parents are learning that $500 million that should have been intended for kids in classrooms went to renegotiate contracts so that Kathleen Wynne would be more popular."

MacLeod said she felt vindicated but not happy that the auditor confirmed the extra costs for the move to reopen the teachers' contracts and accused Wynne of trying to buy labour peace.

The New Democrats said the Liberals created a huge mess by violating the Constitution when they legislated the teachers' pay freeze and warned that could result in a hefty legal bill for the government because of a court challenge.

The auditor said the new deals with teachers, which reduced their ability to bank sick days and cash them out at retirement, would save about $2.1 billion but warned about the unknown costs of the teachers' court challenge of the wage-freeze bill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario auditor general Bonnie Lysyk says the savings the Liberals hoped to have when they passed legislation to freeze teachers' pay for two years "were reduced as a result of subsequent discussions." FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Men in burkas stole jewelry, police say

A screen grab from security video released by police. METRO

Two men disguised themselves as women in burkas while robbing a jewelry store in Toronto in the first such case in the city, police alleged Wednesday as they released security video of the incident.

A large amount of jewelry, worth about a half-million dollars, was stolen from Mona Clara Jewellers in the York Mills Road and Leslie Street area during the Oct. 14 daylight robbery, said Staff Insp. Mike Earl.

Police allege the robbery began with the thieves taking control of the two people inside the store.

They said one of the thieves, who was armed with a black handgun, forced one of the employees to open the display case and both thieves then removed a quantity of jewels and put them in bags. The video shows one of the thieves clearing out the cabinets.

Police say the men were inside the store for about five minutes and then fled using the back door.

"It is our belief that with this amount of jewelry that somebody may have purchased a large quantity of jewelry shortly after the robbery that may point us to the right direction," Earl said as he appealed for the public's help in solving the crime.

One thief is described as black and five-foot-11, while the other is about six-foot-three.

"This is the first jewelry store robbery that I have seen (in Toronto) where they dressed up in burkas," Earl said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Controversial local group looking to clear its name

New beginning. Canadian Association For Equality looking for fresh start with downtown centre for men and families

MIKE DONACHIE
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There's a new centre in Toronto focused on the needs of men and boys, and the people behind it hope it will bring change.

That's not just for the people they want to help but also for their organization, the Canadian Association For Equality.

But it will be tough. One opponent has already expressed doubts.

Justin Trottier, director of the non-profit's new Canadian Centre for Men and Families on 152 Carlton St., insisted Wednesday that he's not a "men's rights" campaigner.

But, as the public face of an organization that's drawn angry protests from feminists and others and been banned from the Pride parade, he's found himself in the spotlight.

Trottier, 31, campaigns for better support on mental health, education and legal rights, especially for fathers.

He's among the volunteers at the new centre, where he said they're developing programs with lofty aims.

"I'd really like to see us foster a change in the relationship between society and masculinity," Trottier said. "I know that sounds kind of vague, but at the core of what we're doing is this challenge.

"Often men perceive masculinity in often harmful ways, at least to themselves. It means when you're a man, you take it like a man."

The new centre has three small rooms on the second floor, all furnished with donated furniture and equipment and paid for after a $60,000 capital campaign.

It opened Monday and, according to Trottier, has already had three dozen calls from people seeking help and two dozen visitors.

Trottier said plans include a lecture series, one-on-one therapy, counselling, meditation and more.

There's a workshop room, space for volunteers and a small library.

That's where the controversy comes back.

As Trottier speaks, near his elbow is a pile of books by Warren Farrell, who was at the centre of the Canadian Association For Equality's most difficult moment so far.

In November 2012, Farrell spoke at an event run by the University of Toronto Men's Issues Awareness Society, an affiliate group, and tempers flared. About 100 protesters disrupted it, accusing Farrell of hate speech in his views about date rape and other issues. There were scuffles with the police.

Trottier's sticking with Farrell, saying that many feminists would agree with "a lot" of Farrell's arguments in his books. Despite protests at the association's events, Trottier said he also shares views with many feminists.

He's also keen to avoid new controversies.

Asked about his opinions, he condemned sexism against women and men, rape culture and disruptive protests by any group.

"We have to catalyze a change on both sides," Trottier said. "It's about human rights, rather than women's rights or men's rights."

Todd Minerson, executive director of White Ribbon in Toronto, said the association needs to back up its talk with action before it can leave behind the controversy that's dogged it.

"I think there's quite a gap between what they say and what they do," Minerson said.

He repeated allegations that the association did not tell the truth in its application for charitable status, harasses women via social media and is linked to A Voice For Men, a website with unpalatable views about violence.

Trottier denies all the allegations.

Minerson said he would "love" it if a group did address men's problems in the way the association says it will, but he called for more commitment and transparency.

Quoted

"I believe that men can change, or we wouldn't be in this business we're in at White Ribbon. But it takes real commitment and action."

Todd Minerson, executive director of White Ribbon Toronto

Quoted

"It's very hurtful and it's also kind of ignorant. It's really unfortunate because it does deprive us of the opportunity to have a real dialogue."

Justin Trottier, director of CAFE, on the protests at the organization's events

Justin Trottier is director of the Canadian Association For Equality, which has opened a centre for men and families on Carlton Street. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Axed

Bell Media cuts 80 more jobs, citing challenging ad market

Bell Media has cut 80 positions across several departments. It is the second round of reductions the broadcaster has made this year. In June, the company announced a reduction of 120 positions.

"I can confirm that a number of positions were eliminated at Bell Media today. The difficult decision was made as the result of continued financial pressure in relation to the industry-wide challenging advertising market for radio and TV," wrote Scott Henderson, vice-president of communications for Bell Media, in an email.

Jacqueline Milczarek, morning anchor on CTV News Channel, is one of the people affected by the cuts. CONTRIBUTED

The affected positions are across a number of departments, including local radio and TV; sales, research and revenue management; marketing and communications; network operations; and news.

"It amounts to 80 full-time positions in our national radio and television operations, or about 1.3 per cent of Bell Media's entire workforce," said Henderson.

In terms of on-air talent, Jacqueline Milczarek, morning anchor on CTV News Channel, is one of the people affected by the cuts. She joined the channel in 2007.

Also on the list to lose their jobs are Amanda Logan, a host on CHUM-FM, and Chitra Nawbatt, a host on BNN.

Just last week, high-profile broadcasters Tanya Kim of eTalk and Teri Hart of The Movie Network were let go as part of the first round of cuts.

Bell Media is a division of telecom giant BCE and the company recently reported strong third-quarter financial results in early November. But while chief executive George Cope said Bell Media continued to grow market share, he lamented the high cost of sports programming and HBO content, saying the division is "clearly beginning to be impacted by higher content costs."

"That's a conscious strategic investment we will make, which will have an impact on the media businesses."

While talking about the company's oncoming streaming service, Project Latte, he said: "We're making an investment on the content side, and that revenue will take a while to generate."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"That's a conscious strategic investment we will make, which will have an impact on the media businesses."

George Cope, Bell Media chief executive

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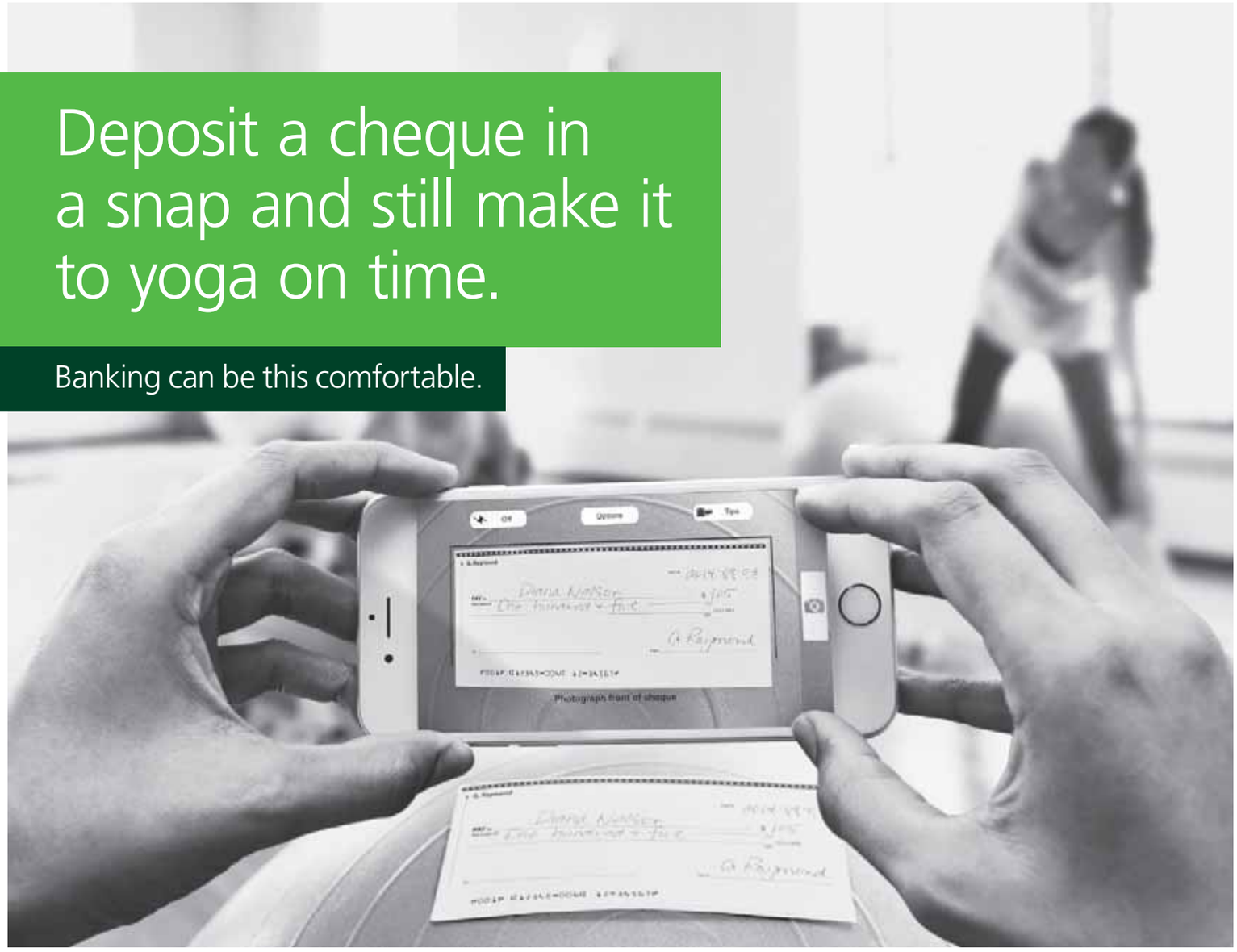

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Photographer loses camera equipment to mystery cab

'Felt like a legitimate cab.' Similar stories could arise if UberX rolls in: City licensing and standards officer

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
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As the UberX debate rages, a Toronto photographer may have already fallen victim to a dodgy driver.

Alejandro Santiago could only watch as a taxi drove off with the tools of his trade in mid-October — a few thousand dollars worth of camera equipment left in the trunk.

Since Monday, 31 donations totalling more than $3,500, many of them from Torontonians, have flooded into an Indiegogo campaign, and Santiago now has the cash to replace his camera, lens and other items.

What happened to his gear, though, remains a mystery. And it's not even clear whether the vehicle that picked him up was actually a cab.

Santiago had just returned from Montreal and got in a car waiting outside the Toronto Coach Terminal. It was 12:30 a.m., rainy and he said the vehicle had all the markings of a cab: a light on the roof and a decal on the side door.

Santiago asked if the driver took credit cards.

"He said he did," Santiago said. "To me that felt like a legitimate cab."

He put his luggage and camera equipment in the trunk. But when he got out 10 minutes later, the driver sped away before he could get his luggage — and livelihood.

Santiago filed a police report. He also lodged a complaint with the city's municipal licensing and standards division, which began an investigation.

Municipal standards officer Dmitri Kritsotakis looked at video surveillance at the bus station, which offered no leads.

From the credit card transaction, Santiago discovered he'd been billed the $11 fare by a company called Akrem Taxi — but there is no Akrem Taxi registered as a cab company with the city. Akrem has no online record that Kritsotakis could find.

Toronto photographer Alejandro Santiago lost his camera equipment after getting a ride in a vehicle he thought was a cab. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

Santiago's bank provided one detail: a postal code that leads to a residential building in Scarborough.

"I did go there to talk to the manager of the building," Kritsotakis said.

She knew nothing of a taxi driver living there, and, in the underground garage, there was no cab that matched Santiago's description of a silver four-door car, Kritsotakis said.

That leaves Santiago's case in limbo.

"There was not enough evidence provided to determine whether the vehicle was a cab or not," said John Decourcy, director of bylaw enforcement at the city.

Kritsotakis said he's never had a case quite like this, where credit card records lead to a company he couldn't track down. But, there are cases of unlicensed or improperly licensed drivers, something he expects will rise with an UberX arrival.

"They're not licensed cab drives, so that might pose a threat to the safety or security of people getting into their vehicles," Kritsotakis said about the car-sharing service.

Condo demand in Toronto remains high: Analysts

Condo under construction at Bloor and Yonge. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Two new reports on Toronto real estate suggest the city's condo boom has staying power, with landed immigrants and millennials propelling continued growth.

"Ask any real estate developer in any of Canada's major cities about the risk of overbuilding, and the first line of defence would be immigration and its critical role in supporting demand," CIBC economist Benjamin Tal writes in a report co-authored with Nick Exarhos.

Though that paper doesn't mention condos specifically, Tal expanded on the subject in an interview. "I think that the condo market is misunderstood. I think that people count cranes and they say, 'This is crazy,'" he said. "This is a market clearly with a lot of supply, but the demand is there, too.... I do believe that new immigrants can add to this demand, and it's definitely happening."

Tal noted that Ontario's Greenbelt, which restricts development in a ring around the GTA, has capped the availability of land and restricted the supply of lowrise houses in the region.

"The condo market is introducing an element of affordability," he said. "We've basically priced out first-time homebuyers in this city."

"Everybody was going to the suburbs — now the opposite is the case."

In a separate analysis presented at the Toronto Housing Outlook Conference on Wednesday morning, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation analyst Dana Senagama said that relatively inexpensive housing types have received a boost from the influx of young immigrants.

"Condos are the affordable choice," Senagama said in an interview. "If you're a new immigrant who settles in Canada, it's a good entry point to the market."

Some 55,000 condo units are currently under construction in Toronto, way up from years past, but the share of "unabsorbed" units has remained constant, Senagama said. That points to continued strong demand for condos, especially among millennials.

Some 28 per cent of first-time buyers in the GTA have opted for condominiums so far this year, CMHC figures show, up from 13 per cent in 2004. First-time buyers choosing single-detached houses dropped from 57 per cent to 31 per cent during that time.

Still, despite the uptick in condo rental units, vacancy rates hover around 2 per cent. Millennials are helping drive the high occupancy levels, Senagama said.

"They want to live in the downtown urban centres," she added. "There's this growing appetite amongst the mid-20s folks to the mid-30s folks who want this type of living."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Interest rate effects

CMHC analyst Dana Senagama and CIBC economist Benjamin Tal both expect a slight cooling in the condo market by 2016, when interest rates are expected to rise.

- But expensive mortgages affect sales of detached houses, too, which could funnel some buyers back into cheaper options.
- "Even if rates go up, they're not going to go up at a rapid pace," Senagama said.

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New film looks to redefine North York neighbourhood

Lawrence Heights. Documentary, titled Hope Heights, tells story of 'a loving, vibrant community'

GILBERT NGABO
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A scene from the Regent Park neighbourhood as depicted in the documentary Hope Heights. COURTESY NADIA ANGELINI

A new documentary is expected to help redefine the negative image sometimes associated with the Lawrence Heights community.

Hope Heights, which premieres Saturday as part of the Regent Park Film Festival, is the product of a two-year project in the making.

Built from a series of interviews with residents of the North York neighbourhood, there's a special focus on youth as they talk about their futures and the best ways to achieve their goals.

Producer Robin Phillips, a former teacher at Lawrence Heights Middle School, was inspired to make the film after seeing "so much potential for kids who lived there."

"Unfortunately, the image the community had in the media was negative," she said. "It was a single story, but not the truth."

From left, Hope Heights producer Robin Phillips, director Marc Magnusson and co-producer Tyler Frederick, at a community event. COURTESY NADIA ANGELINI

By sharing the kids' successes and aspirations, the 40-minute documentary seeks to flip the narrative of Lawrence Heights on its head.

"Rather than a violence-riddled and hopeless society, the film shows that this is a loving, vibrant community," she said.

Much of what's been written about the community in the past has generally centred on violence, like shootings.

Phillips said that could have a negative impact on young people's growth and create an unnecessary stigma around people who live there.

"Yes, some of them have gone down the wrong way, but there are so many others that strive for a positive future," she said.

"This film is a powerful way of telling these stories and (letting) Toronto see these people's faces and hope in their eyes."

Phillips teamed up with director Marc Magnusson, a childhood friend of hers, and they started an online campaign to raise money for the film. It came to more than $11,000.

Magnusson said the film outlines a delicate subject for the young people involved.

"Just having that address on your resume can make you lose a job," he said.

'A loving' community

"Rather than a violence-riddled and hopeless society, the film shows that this is a loving, vibrant community."

Documentary producer Robin Phillip, talks about how the Lawrence Heights community is portrayed in the new documentary

Regent Park Film Festival

Reaching out to isolated communities

The Regent Park Film Festival started runs through Saturday.

There are nine features and 23 short films to be screened at Daniels Spectrum, located at 585 Dundas St. E., all free of charge.

In addition to showcasing local and international talent, the festival aims to reach isolated communities throughout Regent Park and around the city.

It serves as a forum for community members to discuss issues affecting them and look for solutions. The festival also has specific school programs, giving children an opportunity to experience a film festival and talk about issues they face. All screenings take place at Daniels Spectrum in Regent Park. The festival also features a series of talkbacks and panel discussions, with participants including Cameron Bailey, Alanis Obomsawin, John Greyson, Jennifer Podemski and Danis Goulet.

Regent Park has a history of violence, and the film festival was launched in 2003 to help improve the area's image.

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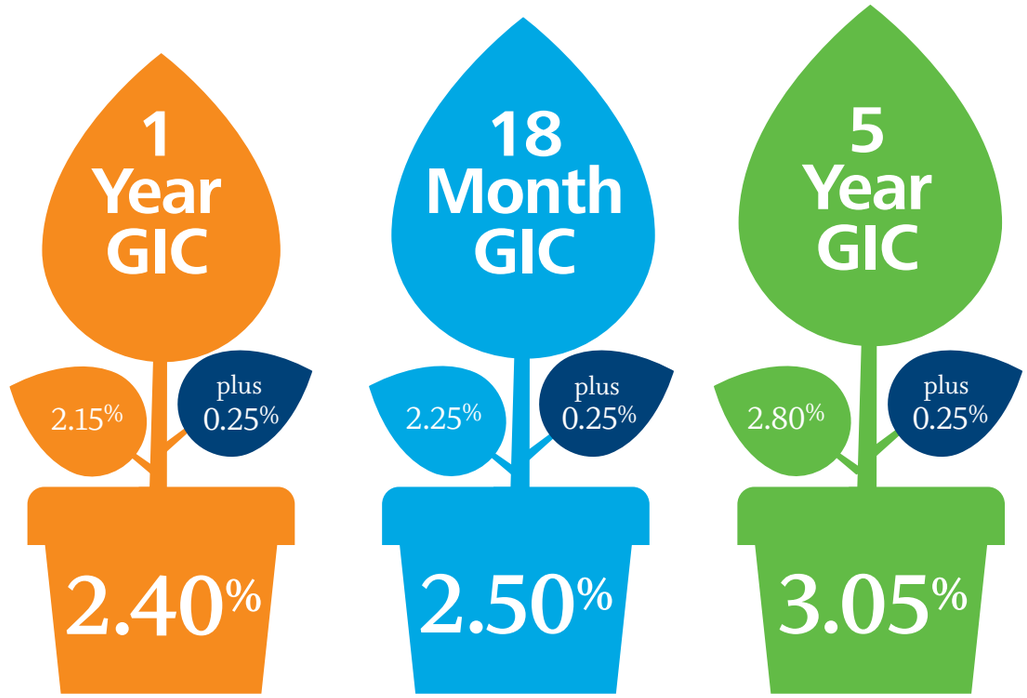

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PM shrugs off Wynne demand

Face to face. Premier wants meeting to discuss issues such as Ring of Fire chromite mining project

Premier Kathleen Wynne, left, asked Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Sept. 16 for a meeting to discuss a variety of issues. He finally replied on Tuesday, but was noncommittal. RICHARD J. BRENNAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE; ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is shrugging off Premier Kathleen Wynne's demand for a face-to-face meeting.

Wynne, who has not met with Harper in 11 months, wrote him Wednesday formally requesting an audience — to no avail. "It's a much better situation when the prime minister of Canada and the premier of our country's biggest province are working together collaboratively," she told the legislature.

"The issues at hand are of vital interest and importance to the more than 13 million residents of our province, and they have a right to expect a close and positive collaboration between their federal and provincial heads of government."

"This is not a partisan issue," the Liberal premier said of her strained relationship with the Conservative prime minister.

In Ottawa, federal NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair hammered Harper for not sitting down with the premier for the greater good of the country.

The prime minister countered saying he has "regular meetings with provinces and territories across the country" — 300 of them since he took office almost nine years ago.

"We understand the province of Ontario has pretty significant challenges. In the approach we are taking at our level, we have been able to balance the budget by lowering taxes and providing benefits to families. That is what the people of Ontario need," he said.

Jason MacDonald, Harper's communications director, said "the prime minister doesn't look for conflict with provincial leaders" and "wants productive relationships."

"We know Ontario is facing serious economic challenges and will have to make serious decisions and we'd rather encourage the provincial government as they address the issues facing them, not seek confrontation," MacDonald said.

Wynne said she asked Harper on Sept. 16 for a meeting "at his earliest convenience to discuss a variety of issues relating to economic growth, developing safe and prosperous communities, and building a strong Ontario within a strong Canada."

He finally replied on Tuesday, but was noncommittal.

Against the backdrop of a federal election within the next 11 months — and mindful Harper must retain scores of Ontario seats to keep his majority government — Wynne is stepping up the pressure.

She wants to talk about developing the Ring of Fire chromite mining project, the Chinese currency trading hub for Toronto, pensions, and violence against aboriginal women and girls. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harper a no-talker?

Even though Kathleen Wynne was re-elected with a majority on June 12, she and Stephen Harper have barely spoken this year.

- The premier called him last month after the Oct. 22 shooting on Parliament Hill that killed Cpl. Nathan Cirillo.
- Prior to that brief conversation, Canada's two most powerful political leaders had not chatted since March.

Hearing starts for cop charged after G20 mass arrests

A senior police officer who ordered the arrests of hundreds during Toronto's G20 summit four years ago had no regard for their conduct or intentions when he issued his sweeping commands, a prosecution lawyer told the officer's disciplinary hearing on Wednesday.

Supt. Dave (Mark) Fenton has pleaded not guilty to a total of five charges of unlawful arrest and discreditable conduct stemming from two "kettling" incidents that occurred over the summit weekend.

Arrested

1,000

More than 1,000 people were detained over the summit weekend in what is considered the largest mass arrest in Canada's peacetime history. Most were released without charge.

The first took place on Saturday, June 26, 2010, hours after a small group of vandals smashed windows and set police cruisers alight.

Fenton ordered officers to box in protesters in front of a downtown hotel. More than 260 people were arrested and taken to a makeshift prisoner processing centre, which came under severe criticism for its deplorable conditions.

The second incident occurred the next day when, six minutes after coming on shift, Fenton ordered police to keep scores of people standing for hours at a downtown intersection despite a severe thunderstorm that left them drenched.

Prosecution lawyer Brendan van Niejenhuis told the hearing that at the heart of the hearing is one "ultimate question" that must be addressed by retired Ontario Superior court judge Peter Grossi, who is presiding over the case.

"Were the arrests lawful and necessary, and did they constitute conduct that would lower the esteem of the Toronto Police Service in the eyes of the public," he said.

Peter Brauti, Fenton's defence lawyer, cautioned the hearing is only dealing with the two issues — whether Fenton had grounds to issue the arrest orders, and whether he failed to monitor the processing and detention of those who had been arrested. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mark Fenton TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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The Tiger Woods of Etobicoke?

Toronto golf prodigy Connor Munro, 12, will be playing the IMG World Junior Match Play Championship in Sarasota, Fla. GILBERT NGABO/METRO

The good ol' golf game. Connor Munro, 12, always showed more interest (and talent) in hitting the links than hitting the ice

GILBERT NGABO
gilbert.ngabo@metronews.ca

As darkness slowly sets in at the Weston Golf and Country Club, 12-year-old Connor Munro insists on taking one final shot.

"See what I was saying?" his father Alec says. "It's so hard to get him off the course."

Munro, a Grade 7 student at Kingsway College School in Etobicoke, is a golf prodigy aspiring to become a superstar. His exceptional skill level has earned him an invitation to next month's IMG World Junior Match Play Championship in Sarasota, Fla.

"I'm really excited. I love competition. It should be a lot of fun," says the youngster whose golf index is ranked 7.8 by Golf Canada and who has been playing on full-size courses (6,000 yards plus) for the past three years. He also plays in the bantam division (under 15), where he is ranked third in Ontario and fifth in all of Canada.

This year he's also on the Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour, Canada's only junior golf tour.

It wasn't a given for Munro to play golf, especially since his family is crazy for hockey.

When he was born, his father remembers calling everyone in the family and telling them he's got a new hockey player.

He even built Munro a hockey rink in the backyard.

It wasn't until the end of Grade 3 that the young Munro asked for golf club gear as his graduation gift. His father thought it was a joke but found him "cheap ones," nonetheless. Once Munro hit the course, however, he was a natural.

American idols

"I had been watching a lot of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson games on TV."
Connor Munro

"I had been watching a lot of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson games on TV," he remembers. He considers Mickelson his role model and golf hero.

Since then, the aspiring golf pro hasn't stopped improving his game.

His parents brought Bradlee Ryall, a renowned golf coach and director of instruction at Braeben Academy in Mississauga, on board to help supervise Munro's progress. At a recent CN Future Links National Skills Championship competition, Munro finished tied for first.

"The kid has a ton of potential and great work ethic," Ryall says of Munro.

During the winter Munro trains extensively at the IMG Golf Academy in Bradenton, Fla.

The family's ultimate goal is to find him a golf scholarship at a great U.S. university. Scouts from various colleges have already showed interest.

But for now, the young Munro has to maintain his A-grade average in school while pursuing a golf career.

"The rule is, if his marks start to slide, golf stops," says his father.

That's why it's a hassle to get Munro off the course before dark, because he comes to practice only after school.

On a bad day when golfing is not practicable, Munro enjoys remote control car racing and video gaming, or playing with his dog Bentley, 4.

Munro was honoured as Athlete of the Month in October by the Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame.

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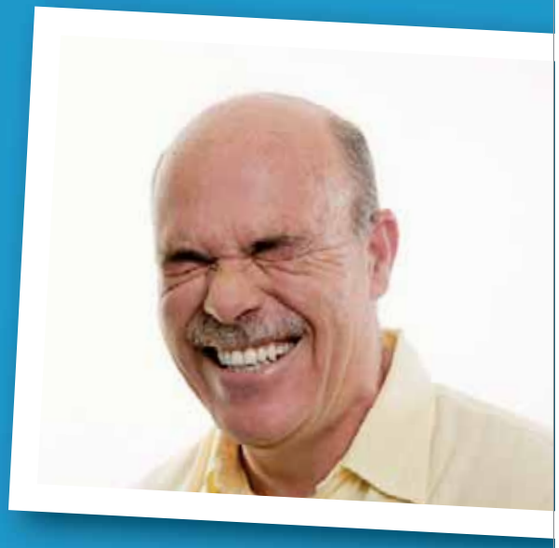

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Transit. More delays for TTC signal system

Annoying commutes are nothing new to TTC riders. But Nov. 5 stands out as particularly heinous, as subway signal failures in two locations consigned passengers to shuttle buses for three hours.

This is what a generation of under-investment in transit looks like, explained apologetic TTC officials, citing the 1954 signal system still in use on the subway as the culprit.

The good news, they added, was that a $562-million upgrade is underway — a system called automatic train control (ATC) that will replace the old block signals on the TTC. But commuters, who have been told ATC was in the works for the past seven years, will have to wait another five.

When provincial funding for the new computerized system was first announced in 2007, it was projected to be a five-year project. But the completion date was revised to 2016, and then again, to 2018.

TTC officials are now suggesting 2020 is more realistic.

"It's just taking longer than anticipated. This is the problem with dates. When we announce dates, they can move," said TTC spokesman Brad Ross.

In the case of ATC, previous timelines were simply inaccurate, particularly as the project has grown significantly and proved more complicated than imagined, said Ross.

When the TTC set out to modernize its old block signal system, the project was far less ambitious. It was only going to replace the 1954 signaling system on the oldest part of the subway, between Eglinton and Union. About a year later, the TTC decided to upgrade the signals for the entire Yonge-University-Spadina line. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dates

"It's just taking longer than anticipated. This is the problem with dates. When we announce dates, they can move."

TTC spokesman Brad Ross

David Mirvish, from left, Blaine Lastman and former mayor Mel Lastman — doing his signature "Noooooobody" — at the launch of the new Bad Boy store on Wednesday. Honest Ed's and Bad Boy are teaming up at Bloor and Bathurst as Bad Boy opens in a ground-floor space as part of the historic venue. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Honest Ed's. Bad Boy moves in

One decades-old Toronto retail institution moved in next door to another on Wednesday, as Bad Boy celebrated the grand opening of its newest location Wednesday morning at the Honest Ed's property at Bathurst and Bloor.

The furniture and appliance superstore, founded by former Toronto mayor Mel Lastman, announced its intentions to move into the location back in June.

Bad Boy now occupies the space recently vacated by Sonic Boom record store, which relocated to Spadina Avenue in September.

The property of the long-standing discount retailer Honest Ed's was sold last year to a Vancouver developer.

Much of the property is still occupied by Honest Ed's, but it's not known how long the Bad Boy location will last, given that Westbank Corp., which bought the site, only leased the land back to Honest Ed's boss David Mirvish until the end of 2016.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Private member's bill

NDP take another run at outlawing flavoured tobacco

New Democrat France Gelinas is making another attempt to pass legislation outlawing all flavoured tobacco products in Ontario. Gelinas says she made a mistake in her first private member's bill that banned flavoured cigarellos because companies exploited a loophole by simply adding a little more tobacco to the product. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Store holdup

Robbery solved via social media

A 14-year-old boy is facing a robbery charge after security camera pictures were posted on Twitter and Facebook. That generated tips that police say helped lead them to a suspect in a convenience store holdup Friday in Bradford, southeast of Barrie. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Accountability. NDP ethics critic decries Tory 'secrecy'

The New Democrats are calling on the Conservatives to give the federal information czar the money she needs to do her job as the first step toward fixing a "broken system" of accountability.

In a letter to Treasury Board president Tony Clement, NDP ethics critic Charlie Angus accuses the government of starving the Access to Information system of cash, hiding documents for political reasons and backpedalling on promises to reform the 32-year-old access law.

The letter follows information commissioner Suzanne Legault's recent admission that her office can barely make ends meet — a cash squeeze she says threatens the rights of Canadians. The commissioner serves as an ombudsman for people who request federal records under the Access to Information Act, handling complaints about delays, fees, and problems obtaining documents from federal agencies.

In a recent interview, Clement called the access law "a good piece of legislation" — despite criticism from Legault, pro-democracy groups and opposition MPs that it allows too much information to be kept under wraps. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Culture of secrecy'

"Starving the system of funds amidst a growing Conservative government culture of secrecy appears to be an effective method to deteriorate an individual's right to access information and thereby limit government accountability."

NDP ethics critic Charlie Angus in a letter to Treasury Board president Tony Clement

Military. Petraeus says ISIL's momentum halted

Retired U.S. general David Petraeus, the architect of America's surge in Iraq in 2007, says the current U.S.-led coalition there, which includes Canadian fighter jets, has halted the momentum of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Though he ruled out any future need for Western ground troops, Petraeus said a Western victory over the Islamic extremists in Iraq and Syria could take years.

Petraeus offered that view on Wednesday outside a meeting where he spoke about a U.S. think-tank report he co-authored about Canada-U.S.-Mexico relations.

Petraeus said he's optimistic because of the recent military gains by Iraqi ground forces in northern Iraq and near Baghdad.

Iraqi army and police with help from Shiite and Sunni militias "have not only halted (ISIL) but reversed their gains," said Petraeus, a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency and now the chairman of a major global investment firm.

"This is, however, going to play out over months and most likely years," he added.

"It's not going to be rapid. But I think that the momentum of (ISIL) has been halted, by and large, and that the initiation of a gradual process of taking back Iraqi areas controlled by ISIL has begun."

Speaking to a small group of reporters, Petraeus said it was unlikely that U.S. ground troops — or those of coalition partners such as Canada — would be needed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former Bloc member

Mourani joins NDP, but not yet an MP

She may have signed an NDP membership card Wednesday, but former Bloc Québécois MP Maria Mourani will have to be re-elected as a New Democrat in 2015 before she can join the party's caucus. Mourani was cast into the role of an Independent MP after the Bloc kicked her out for criticizing the provincial government's proposed charter of values. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Advising space projects

Hadfield, Natynczyk named to new space board

Former astronaut Chris Hadfield is among those named by Industry Minister James Moore to a new board that will advise the government on space projects. The board also includes retired general Walt Natynczyk, deputy minister of Veterans Affairs and former president of the Canadian Space Agency.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michael Sona arrives at the Guelph courthouse for his sentencing on Wednesday after being found guilty of election fraud in the so-called robocalls scandal during the 2011 federal election. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-staffer in robocall scandal gets jail time

Nine-month sentence. Michael Sona will be first person to spend time behind bars for violating Canada Elections Act

Interfering with a citizen's right to vote merits real jail time, an Ontario judge declared Wednesday as he made Michael Sona the first person ever to spend time behind bars for violating the Canada Elections Act.

Sona, the former Conservative staffer convicted in the 2011 robocalls scandal, was sentenced to nine months behind bars and one year's probation for what Justice Gary Hearn called "an affront to the electoral process."

He's the first person convicted of wilfully preventing or endeavouring to prevent an elector from voting under the Canada Elections Act, said Hearn, adding that he believes Sona did not act alone in the scheme, in which some 6,700 automated phone calls were placed the morning of the 2011 federal election with misleading information on how to vote.

Sona was 22 at the time, lacked proper guidance from more experienced colleagues, and has suffered emotionally in the aftermath, Hearn noted. But jail time was nonetheless warranted in order to send the unmistakable message that messing with the electoral process is a serious crime, he said.

"This was a deliberate and considered course of criminal conduct specifically designed to subvert the inherent fairness of the electoral process," Hearn told the court.

"This was a federal election undertaken to elect representatives who form the governing body in our nation. This was not an amateurish Grade 8 election campaign for student council. Conduct such as that of Mr. Sona is not suitable at any time."

Sona hung his head and fiddled with his BlackBerry, his family members beside him in tears, as Hearn delivered his fate. He was later led out of the courtroom by police.

Sona's lawyer, Norm Boxall, said his client would be transferred to an unspecified provincial jail. He said a decision has not yet been made whether to file an appeal.

Boxall said Sona would likely consult with another lawyer to determine whether an appeal is appropriate. He could then seek a release from jail pending his appeal. Should he decide not to appeal, he could be eligible to apply for parole after three months, Boxall said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mulcair defends female MPs' silence

Two female New Democrat MPs alleging misconduct at the hands of two of their Liberal counterparts shouldn't be pushed to lodge formal complaints, no matter how serious their allegations might be, their leader says.

It is up to the two women to decide when and if they want to participate in any sort of investigative process, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair said Wednesday.

Mulcair's continued defence of the women's refusal to participate came after The Canadian Press revealed that NDP MP Craig Scott, a former law professor, told the Liberals that one of the misconduct incidents — as it was described to him — amounted to an allegation of sexual assault.

Multiple sources say Scott issued that assessment during a behind-the-scenes meeting on Oct. 30 with the Liberal and NDP whips, to which he had accompanied one of the alleged victims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Personal misconduct' allegations

MPs' futures still unclear

Newfoundland MP Scott Andrews says he will run in the next federal election, but whether he will be allowed to run as Liberals depends on the outcome of an investigation that may never happen.

The future is anything but clear for Andrews, his fellow newly Independent MP Massimo Pacetti and the two unidentified female NDP MPs who levelled allegations of "personal misconduct" against them, which sources say were sexual in nature.

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Bigfoot researcher to petition U.S. Congress

Species protection. Idaho State University professor believes Sasquatch are living in remote wooded area

JEREMY NOLAIS
Metro in Calgary

He's trekked through the woods with Survivorman, claims to have engaged in a staredown with some massive mammals and has faced skeptics around every corner.

But Alberta's highly controversial Bigfoot researcher is now primed for what may be his greatest challenge: taking on U.S. Congress.

"I'm tired of all the paranormal talk, I'm tired of all the naysayers — the species is real," said Todd Standing, head of the Sylvanic Group.

The species he's referring to would be classified generally as Bigfoot or Sasquatch. He claims there's a large group of them living in an undisclosed wooded area near Nordegg. Last year, Standing took TV's Survivorman Les Stroud into the area for a three-day walkabout, where the duo surveyed whole trees torn from their roots and heard strange whooping noises.

Stroud said in the eventual televised production of their trip that he couldn't articulate what he heard — at least "not within normal explanations."

Standing said his trek with Stroud, although it didn't produce an actual Bigfoot sighting, has left him with "so much credibility it's ridiculous."

He now believes there may be evidence to suggest the species lives in the U.S. as well and plans to pitch U.S. Congress on endangered species protection for Bigfoot. He's also peddling a documentary, called Bigfoot North, that he said features never-before-seen videos of close encounters with the species.

Standing said he's started a Kickstarter campaign to fundraise for mass production of the film but will show 15 minutes of it at a theatre in Seattle next week.

Quoted

"The footprint evidence for me is overwhelmingly compelling."

Todd Standing, head of the Sylvanic Group

His claims have no doubt stirred skepticism — and outright criticism — but he's now received support from a PhD with Idaho State University. Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum took a jaunt through the Nordegg-area woods with Standing last year.

"The footprint evidence for me is overwhelmingly compelling," he said. "That there is a species out there that is, as yet, unrecognized, unacknowledged by science, and that evidence alone would justify, in my mind, it motivates me, it has convinced me that the search for this species is absolutely justified and long overdue." WITH FILES FROM YASMIN JASWAL

Cheers or fears?

The Boston Raider, the Prince Albert Raiders' new mascot (sponsored by Boston Pizza), is seen in this photo posted to the team's Facebook page. The acting president of the Canadian Arab Federation says that the mascot is propagating trends of racism in sport.

STORY: JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN REGINA; PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Federal folly?

Veterans Affairs returns big chunk of change

Veterans Affairs Canada has returned $1.13 billion to the federal treasury in unspent funds since the Conservatives came to power in 2006 — cash that critics say should have gone towards improved benefits and services.

The issue surfaced in the House of Commons this week, leading to renewed criticism of the Harper government.

Figures tabled in response to a written question show roughly one-third of the lapsed funds were handed back between the 2011 and 2013 budget years when the government was engaged in a massive deficit-cutting drive.

The Conservatives often trumpet how much the budget for veterans care has gone up under their watch, increasing to roughly $3.4 billion annually from $2.8 billion when they took office.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rights. Métis, non-status Indians await court ruling

Canada's Métis and non-status Indians will learn Thursday whether the Supreme Court will hear a high-stakes landmark case that could extend the federal government's responsibilities to hundreds of thousands of off-reserve Aboriginal Peoples.

All three key players have a great deal riding on the decision of the top court, which could ultimately result in a number of different outcomes.

The Métis could eventually end up on a level playing field with Canada's other two Aboriginal Peoples, the First Nations and the Inuit, or find themselves back on the outside looking in.

Non-status Indians could win back the seat at the table that was taken away earlier this year by the Federal Court of Appeal, which ruled that they weren't considered "Indians" under the Constitution. They might also be shut out of the conversation altogether.

The federal government could get another crack at arguing that the Métis and non-status Indians should not be entitled to the same programs, services and rights as First Nations and Inuit. Or it could be forced to accept the decisions of the lower courts, start reshaping its policies and enter into negotiations with the Métis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metis rights

There is no clear path to resolving the inclusiveness of Métis rights.

- **Historical Métis.** Métis National President Clement Chartier argues to expand who can identify as Metis would dilute the group, adding eastern Canadians shouldn't be able to claim Metis status.
- **Self-determination.** Congress of Aboriginal Peoples National Chief Betty Ann Lavalee disagrees with Chartier, believing self-determination is key to the exercise of aboriginal rights.

Vancouver man reunites with missing guide dog

Vancouver resident Patrick York reunites with Garcia, his seeing-eye dog that went missing the night before after someone had left his backyard gate open on Wednesday. STEFANIA SECCIA/FOR METRO

Together again. Visually impaired man reached out to TV and radio stations hoping to find his golden-haired best friend

When an east Vancouver man was reunited with his seeing-eye dog Wednesday morning, he knew it was the universe throwing him a bone.

Around 10:30 p.m. Tuesday night, Patrick York, who is visually impaired, let out his yellow lab assistance dog, Garcia, in the enclosed backyard he shares with his neighbours to relieve himself.

But when the eight-year-old dog didn't come back in, York discovered that he had gotten out because someone had left the back gate ajar.

York said he was left panicking with no idea what to do.

"I just let him out for his last evening pee," he explains.

After making several phone calls, York continued trying next morning. He reached out to TV and radio news stations to get the word out as well.

"I kinda figured that the majority of the emotion would be on his side and he was all over everybody," York said.

Then York said he received a call from the city that a dog matching Garcia's description was picked up nearby the night before and they would bring the dog out to see if it was him.

"He's a good friend," he added. "I got lucky."

Joy Tullos, a driver with the City of Vancouver's animal control services, returned Garcia to York's open arms Wednesday.

"The finder took the dog to Vancouver Animal Emergency Hospital, which is where dogs often go, strays that are found overnight, because they're open 24 hours," she said. "The vast majority of strays we pick up go back to their owners."

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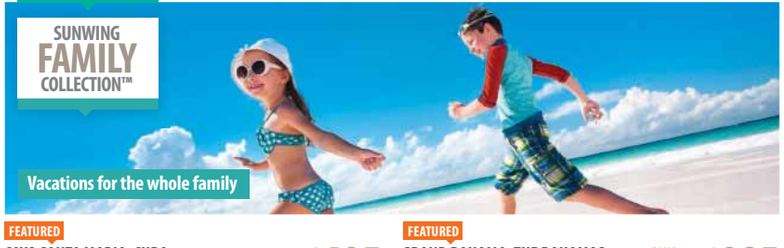

FEATURED

CAYO SANTA MARIA, CUBA — $495 + $315 taxes
Memories Paraiso Azul Beach Resort ★★★★PLUS
Junior Suite Balcony • Jan 07, 14 & 21

PUERTO PLATA, D.R. — $395 + $425 taxes
smile Hotel Playa Dorada By Celuisma ★★★★
Hotel Room • Jan 01, 08 & 15

PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO — $495 + $392 taxes
★★★★PLUS
smile Plaza Pelicanos Club Beach Resort
Hotel Room • Jan 09, 16 & 23

VARADERO, CUBA — $545 + $315 taxes
Memories Varadero Beach Resort ★★★★
Sunrise Gardenview Terrace Room • Jan 05, 12 & 19

HOLGUIN, CUBA — $575 + $315 taxes
smile Blau Costa Verde Beach Resort ★★★★
Hotel Room • Jan 06, 13 & 20

CAYO COCO, CUBA — $595 + $315 taxes
Memories Flamenco Beach Resort ★★★★PLUS
Junior Suite Balcony Gardenview • Jan 04, 11 & 18

FEATURED

GRAND BAHAMA, THE BAHAMAS — $985 + $385 taxes
★★★★PLUS
Memories Grand Bahama Beach & Casino Resort
Deluxe Room • Jan 10, 17, 24 & 31

LA CEIBA — $695 + $305 taxes
smile Palma Real Beach Resort & Villas ★★★★
Mountainview Palma Room No Balcony • Jan 05, 12 & 26

LOS CABOS, MEXICO — $695 + $392 taxes
smile Holiday Inn Resort Los Cabos ★★★★
Gardenview Room • Jan 03, 10 & 17

IXTAPA-ZIHUATANEJO, MEXICO — $795 + $392 taxes
smile Azul Ixtapa Resort ★★★★
Deluxe Oceanview Balcony Room • Jan 05, 12 & 19

PANAMA — $895 + $345 taxes
★★★★PLUS
smile Sheraton Bijao Beach Resort Panama
Deluxe Gardenview Room • Jan 05 & 19

LIBERIA, COSTA RICA — $995 + $365 taxes
smile Villas Sol Hotel & Beach Resort ★★★★
Deluxe Oceanview Room • Jan 05, 07 & 12

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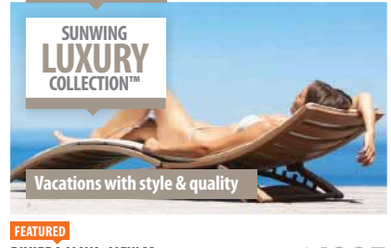


FEATURED

RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO — $1095 + $392 taxes
Royalton Riviera Cancun ★★★★★
Luxury Junior Suite • Jan 04, 11 & 18

PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO — $895 + $392 taxes
★★★★PLUS
Relax Crown Paradise Golden Puerto Vallarta
Deluxe Oceanview Room • Jan 05, 12 & 19

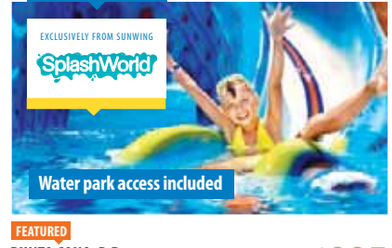
RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO — $1095 + $392 taxes
Relax Platinum Yucatan Princess ★★★★★
Junior Suite Deluxe • Jan 05, 12 & 19

PUNTA CANA, D.R. — $1195 + $425 taxes
CHIC Punta Cana ★★★★★
Luxury Room • Jan 06, 13 & 20

HUATULCO, MEXICO — $1195 + $392 taxes
Relax Secrets Huatulco Resort & Spa ★★★★★
Junior Suite Oceanfront • Jan 06 & 13

RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO — $1295 + $392 taxes
Sensatori Azul Riviera Cancun ★★★★★
Luxury Jacuzzi Oceanview Suite • Jan 03, 10 & 17

EXPERIENCE



FEATURED

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Memories Splash Punta Cana ★★★★PLUS
Deluxe Room • Jan 06, 13 & 20

ORLANDO, USA (FLIGHT + HOTEL + CAR) — $465 + $327 taxes
Coco Key Hotel and Water Park ★★★PLUS
Splash Deluxe Room
Jan 03, 10, 17 & 24

CANCUN, MEXICO — $795 + $392 taxes
smile Grand Oasis Palm ★★★★PLUS
Splash Hotel Room
Jan 09 & 16

RIVIERA NAYARIT, MEXICO — $795 + $392 taxes
Riu Jalisco ★★★★PLUS
Splash Hotel Room • Jan 09 & 16

MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA — $1425 + $425 taxes
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Luxury Oceanview Room
Jan 09 & 16

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Smuggler's Cove Resort & Spa ★★★PLUS
Islandview Room • Jan 13, 20, 27 & Feb 03

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, CUBA — $335 + $315 taxes
Club Amigo Carisol Los Corales ★★★
Hotel Room • Jan 14, 21 & 28

SANTA LUCIA, CUBA — $375 + $315 taxes
Gran Club Santa Lucia ★★★
Hotel Room • Jan 07 & 21

COZUMEL, MEXICO — $595 + $392 taxes
Sabor Cozumel Resort & Spa ★★★★
Deluxe Tropicalview Room • Jan 04, 11 & 18

ACAPULCO, MEXICO — $595 + $392 taxes
Krystal Beach Acapulco ★★★PLUS
Hotel Room • Jan 14, 21 & 28

NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS — $685 + $385 taxes
Meliá Nassau Beach Resort ★★★★
Classic Room • Jan 11, 18 & 25 - 4 Nights

ROATAN — $795 + $305 taxes
★★★
Fantasy Island Beach Resort, Dive and Marina
Oceanview Promo Room • Jan 05, 12 & 19

MANZANILLO, MEXICO — $895 + $392 taxes
smile Grand Isla Navidad Resort ★★★★PLUS
Deluxe Room • Jan 03, 10 & 17

MAZATLÁN, MEXICO — $895 + $392 taxes
★★★★★
smile Pueblo Bonito Emerald Bay Resort & Spa
Junior Suite Oceanview • Jan 06, 13 & 20

CURAÇAO — $1495 + $375 taxes
★★★★
Sunscape Curaçao Resort Spa and Casino
Deluxe Gardenview Room • Jan 11 & Feb 01

ARUBA — $1745 + $375 taxes
Tamarijn Aruba ★★★★
Deluxe Oceanfront Room • Jan 05, 19 & 26

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Ukraine solution still far off: Envoy

Shuttle diplomacy. German foreign minister meets with Putin for unscheduled talks on Ukraine crisis

After meeting with Russia's president, Germany's foreign minister said that a de-escalation of the conflict in Ukraine appears far off and reinforced calls for a demarcation line between rebel and government forces in eastern Ukraine to be made a priority.

Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier met for more than an hour late Tuesday with President Vladimir Putin during a visit to Moscow, hours after meeting the Ukrainian leadership in Kyiv. The invitation to the Kremlin came at the last minute, adding to a previously scheduled meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Funding frozen

Russia's foreign policy chief on Wednesday claimed that Ukraine's decision to freeze budget payments to the eastern rebel-held territories could be a precursor to a military onslaught. Ukrainian officials announced earlier this month that they will freeze the $2.6 billion US in state support to the areas now in rebel hands, which could further worsen the deplorable economic situation there.

"We are, as things stand, unfortunately still a long way from a sustainable de-escalation of the conflict and even further from a political solution," Steinmeier told reporters in Berlin.

Steinmeier said he used the opportunity in Moscow to set out priorities in implementing the much-violated ceasefire agreement signed in Minsk in September and to say "where Russia can make its contribution." He said little about how his meeting with Putin went, but Steinmeier's spokesman, Martin Schaefer, said "the atmosphere of the talks was serious and frank."

As long as there is no agreement on a "line of engagement" between the two sides in eastern Ukraine, "we will not make any progress on other questions that are also part of the Minsk agreement," Steinmeier said.

He said he made clear that the situation on the ground needs to be addressed to avoid further escalation.

Putin's meeting with Steinmeier follows a lengthy encounter with Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Group of 20 summit in Australia over the weekend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ferguson area residents on gun-buying spree

Gun dealer Steven King, left, fills out paperwork before selling a handgun to first-time gun owner Dave Benne at Metro Shooting Supplies, in Bridgeton, Mo. King said that in recent weeks he's sold two to three times more weapons than normal — about 30 to 50 guns each day — as fearful residents await a grand jury's decision on whether to indict Darren Wilson, the white Ferguson police officer who fatally shot Michael Brown, who was black and unarmed. The incident sparked weeks of violent protests in August. JEFF ROBERSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raid on ashram

Standoff ends as police arrest guru in northern India

Police on Wednesday arrested a controversial religious leader at his sprawling ashram in northern India, ending a days-long standoff in which six people died and hundreds were injured.

The 63-year-old Sant Rampal was taken away in an ambulance. He is to appear before a court Friday. The self-styled guru is wanted for questioning in a 2006 murder case, but has repeatedly ignored orders to appear in court.

Riot police tried to storm the ashram on Tuesday, but Rampal's followers, some of them using guns, rocks and batons, fought them off.

On Wednesday, the guru's followers handed over to police the bodies of four women who apparently died inside the complex.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Nations no closer to emission goals

Fighting global warming. World leaders push to decrease greenhouse gases, but may soon pass point of no return

The world still isn't close to preventing what leaders call a dangerous level of man-made warming, a new United Nations report says. That's despite some nations' recent pledges to cut back carbon dioxide emissions.

The report looks at the gap between what countries promise to do about carbon pollution and what scientists say needs to be done to prevent temperatures from rising another two degrees. The two-degree level is a goal world leaders set in 2009.

"The time window (for reaching that goal) is closing," said UN undersecretary for environment Achim Steiner. And the cost of getting to that goal "is increasing."

To meet that mark, the world has to hit a peak of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases before 2030, said the report's chief scientific editor, Joseph Alcamo. But the study says carbon emissions will continue to soar until 2050.

Researchers have determined the world can emit 42 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases by 2030. Without factoring in recent promises by the United States and China to reduce emissions, the world will spew between 15 and 19 billion tons more than that, said Alcamo, chief scientist for the United Nations' environmental arm.

If the U.S. and China follow through with their promises, they may shave a few billion tons off the total, said former U.S. senator Tim Wirth, vice-chairman of the United Nations Foundation. Those pledges and an earlier one by Europe, while narrowing the gap, aren't large enough to close it, Alcamo said.

While the figures have been praised by some scientists, Granger Morgan at Carnegie Mellon University posed a question others in the scientific community have been asking: Is it time to abandon the two-degree figure as unrealistic?

Steiner said because of the dangers of a warmer world, it is unthinkable to abandon the two-degree goal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Time to get serious

"Today a two-degree target is akin to a 60-year-old man who resolves to be 25 years old next year. It ain't gonna happen, but it's time to get really serious about achieving what we can."

Granger Morgan, climate scientist at Carnegie Mellon University

Students detained for salute

An anti-coup protester gives a three-finger salute as soldiers keep eyes on him from an elevated walkway near a rally site in central Bangkok on June 1. Five Thai university students were detained Wednesday after giving a three-fingered salute inspired by The Hunger Games to the army-backed prime minister in a daring protest against the country's military government. THANYARAT DOKSONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Building blocks

Scientists discover two new particles

Scientists at the world's largest smasher said Wednesday they have discovered two subatomic particles that could widen our understanding of the universe.

An experiment using the European Organization for Nuclear Research's Large Hadron Collider found the new particles, which are both baryons made from three quarks bound together by a strong force.

In a statement Wednesday, officials at the lab known by its French acronym CERN said the discovery could shed light on standard physics theory explaining the building blocks of matter.

The new particles are more than six times bigger than the protons scientists have deliberately crashed into each other in a 27-kilometre tunnel on the Swiss-French border near Geneva to see what they can discover about the makeup of the universe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

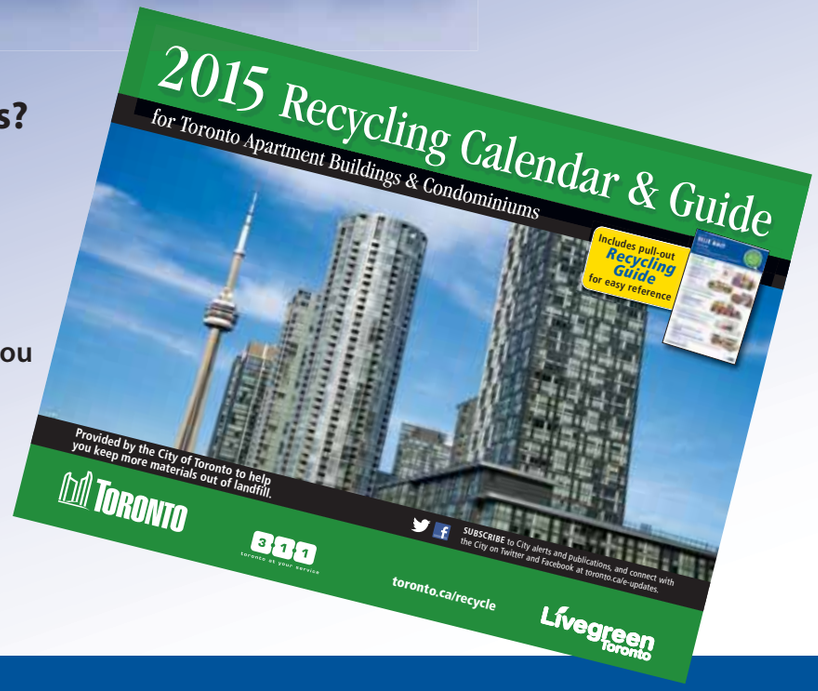
Recycling Calendar tells all!

Do you wonder:

- What to do with takeout food containers?
- What's Waste Wizard?
- What can be recycled?

If you live in an apartment or condo, you'll find the answers to these questions and more in your free 2015 Recycling Calendar. It's an easy reference guide to help you reduce, reuse, recycle and keep more materials out of landfill. **Look for it in the mail in early December.**

If you live in a house, check your existing collection calendar for changes to the pick-up schedule over the holiday season.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Israeli troops destroy attacker's home

The east Jerusalem home of a Palestinian who carried out a deadly attack last month was demolished Wednesday, hours after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised strict security measures in the wake of a grisly synagogue assault.

Tuesday's synagogue attack, which left five people dead, was the deadliest in Jerusalem since 2008 and came amid weeks of violence linked to the city's holiest site for Jews and Muslims.

The home destroyed in the Silwan neighbourhood near the Old City belonged to Abdel Rahman al-Shaludi, who killed two people last month when he drove his car into a crowd at a light rail stop in Jerusalem.

Israeli troops blasted the interior of the third-floor apartment located in a four-story apartment building, leaving piles of cinder blocks and holes in the exterior walls. The blast caused minor damage to neighbouring apartments and flattened a car parked below.

In recent weeks, Palestinian attackers using guns, knives and vehicles have killed 11 people — most in Jerusalem, but also in Tel Aviv and the West Bank. At least five Palestinians involved in the attacks were killed.

On Tuesday two Palestinian cousins wielding meat cleavers, knives and a handgun stormed a synagogue in the west Jerusalem neighbourhood of Har Nof, killing four worshippers and a policeman. The two assailants were shot to death by police.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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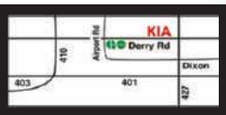

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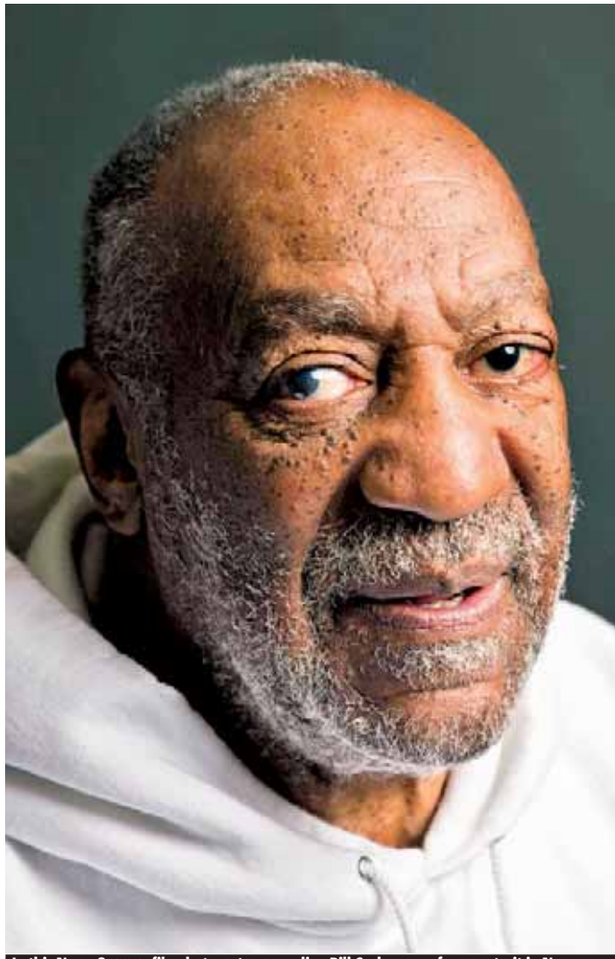

In this Nov. 18, 2013, file photo, actor-comedian Bill Cosby poses for a portrait in New starring Bill Cosby. VICTORIA WILL/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

NBC says project

New assault allegations emerge. Netflix postponing premiere of new Cosby comedy special

NBC says it has scrapped a Bill Cosby comedy that was under development, the second outlet within a day to put off or abandon a Cosby project after another sexual assault allegation against the comic emerged.

NBC spokeswoman Rebecca Marks said Wednesday the project "is no longer under development," and had no further comment.

Netflix announced late Tuesday that it was postponing the Nov. 27 premiere of a new Cosby standup comedy special, giving no hint about whether it will ever be aired. Hours earlier in an interview with Entertainment Tonight, actress Janice Dickinson became the third woman in recent weeks to allege she'd been assaulted by Cosby — charges strongly denied by the comedian's lawyer.

Dickinson told Entertainment Tonight that Cosby had given her red wine and a pill when they were together in a Lake Tahoe, Calif., hotel room in 1982. When she woke up the next morning, "I wasn't wearing my pyjamas and I remembered before I passed out I had been sexually assaulted by this man."

Cosby's lawyer, Martin Sing-

Egypt to see verdict in 1st FGM trial

Raslan Fadl, the first doctor in Egypt to be put on trial for committing female genital mutilation, is still practising even through a 13-year-old girl died after he performed the procedure. And in this Nile Delta village, he has plenty of patients.

Young girls and their families on a recent day sat in his waiting room, where the bright yellow walls are decorated with Winnie the Pooh pictures, in the same building where Soheir el-Batea came for her operation last year. Residents call him a well-respected figure in the community, known for his charity work.

Fadl's continued popularity demonstrates the challenges to curbing the practice in Egypt, where more than 90 per cent of women are estimated to have undergone it — one of the highest rates in the world. Female genital cutting was criminalized in 2008 and the most important Sunni Muslim religious authority has declared it dangerous and without any religious justification.

A verdict is expected Thursday in Fadl's trial, and if convicted he could face up to two years in prison. Rights advocates say the outcome of this case could set a key precedent for deterring doctors and families in the future. Sohair's father is also charged in the case.

In Sidfa, a village where the organization operates, The Associated Press spoke to dozens of residents about their decision to abandon the practice.

Hamdiya Nazmy said one of her seven daughters was "circumcised" but she decided not to do so with the other six after being convinced by Fawzy's organization. "I spoke with people who live near me and convinced them it was wrong too." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

York. NBC announced Wednesday that it has cancelled plans for a family comedy

Cosby quashed

er, said in a letter to The Associated Press that Dickinson's charges were "false and outlandish" and were contradicted by Dickinson herself in a published autobiography. Cosby's spokesman, David Brokaw, has not returned calls for comment.

The spiraling scandal has threatened the 77-year-old comedian's reputation as America's TV dad at a time when he was launching a comeback. He has at least 35 performances scheduled throughout the U.S. and Canada through May of 2015. None of the performances has been cancelled.

At one of the venues, the Sandusky State Theater in Sandusky, Ohio, there's been no negative feedback, said David L. Taylor, the site's executive director. There's been one query from the community about whether the scheduled Jan. 30 performance is still on.

"If the show were to cancel, everybody would obviously get full refunds," Taylor said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I'm doing this because it's the right thing to do and this happened to me and this is a true story."

Actress and model Janice Dickinson, who on Tuesday became the third woman in recent weeks to allege she'd been assaulted by Cosby

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Canadians not sold on paying with phone

Report. Only about 21% of us have made a mobile payment in the past six months, a new poll finds

Gift cards

While Starbucks customers are frequently seen using their phones to pay for coffees, and Tim Hortons also accepts mobile payments, those apps are linked to gift cards rather than bank accounts and are less of a security concern, notes Stephen Popiel, vice-president of consulting for GfK Canada.

Hype for mobile payments is growing but Canadians generally aren't very eager to pay for purchases with their smartphones, suggests a new report.

Canadians are still apprehensive about using their phone in lieu of cash, debit or credit cards, according to a study by global research company GfK, which conducted online surveys with consumers in 17 countries.

Although Canadians have developed a reputation for being keen early adopters of technology, they were found to be among the least interested in mobile payments.

Security fears are a factor, says Stephen Popiel, vice-president of consulting for GfK Canada. Canadians may also be lukewarm on mobile payments since they already have plenty of ways to pay in stores.

"The ATM infrastructure is huge and profound in Canada, even when compared with the United States, so the mobile technology itself is partly a solution for a problem that's not as big of an issue here. We have a seamless ATM and debit card structure here and now the tap technology makes it fast and easy to make a lot of small purchases," says Popiel.

"Now we have to train ourselves: Don't use the wallet, pull out my phone, make sure the app is open. We have to get to a position where this technology is as seamless and easy to use as what we've been using for the past 15 to 20 years."

GfK estimates only about two per cent of transactions in Canada are currently made with a mobile device, either in store or while online shopping at home.

About 21 per cent of the 1,000 Canadians polled by GfK said they had made a mobile payment in the past six months, compared to 24 per cent of western European respondents, 33 per cent of American respondents, and 39 per cent of Latin American respondents.

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Digging up gifts for Fido

A dog wearing two GoPro cameras, one on his back and one on his chest, held on by what is known as a Fetch dog harness, digs into sand at an unknown location. GoPro Inc.'s Fetch dog harness fits over your dog's chest or back and holds the small, waterproof camera known for attaching to helmets, surfboards, cars and wrists to film rugged adventures. Sony, Garmin and Kurgo also make camera mounts for dogs. The device is among a legion of gifts that retailers have rounded up for pet wish lists this year. There are many options besides the traditional treats, new bowls and beds you can give. Ugly sweaters are all the rage, so PetSmart Inc. will hawk ugly sweaters for cats and dogs from Bret Michaels' Pets Rock line ($15.99 US), said a spokeswoman. Dogs can also "use the Force" with Petco's line of Star Wars toys and clothing. Dress up dogs like Princess Leia with a headband sporting her signature bun hairstyle. The Death Star won't menace when it comes as a treat dispenser ($7.49) or tug-of-war toy ($5.99). And, after romping in the snow, pets can warm up with San Diego-based Honest Kitchen's Winter Warmers Broths. GOPRO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kickstarter. Mission to crowdfund trip to moon

It's the moon mission for the masses. A project to fund a private lunar exploration mission got underway Wednesday, offering the public the chance to take part.

For as little as 10 pounds ($15 US), Lunar Mission One gives the public a chance to buy space on memory discs that will be buried in a hole drilled into the lunar surface.

The public will be invited to leave music, photos and videos on the disc — helping create a chronicle of the people of Earth. Those offering more funding will leave more data, including DNA in the form of a strand of hair.

The mission plans to land a spacecraft on the moon in 10 years. It will drill a hole at least 20 metres deep — but possibly as deep as 100 metres — to access lunar rock that is billions of years old. It will use crowdfunding platform Kickstarter to finance its development phase.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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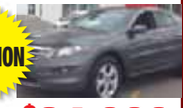
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VOICES

SEX, LIES AND CELEBRITY

Bill Cosby. Jian Ghomeshi. Woody Allen. Famous for being entertainers but now household names for more sinister reasons. With a growing list of women accusing celebrities of sexual assault, are survivors of abuse turning to social media — and the court of public opinion — to get the conviction that may not be found through the courts?

EMINA GAMULIN
Metro in Toronto

While they probably still whisper among themselves, the people that defend Jian Ghomeshi have largely shut up. The disgraced radio host may never be charged, but in the court of public opinion, the matter is settled.

In this case at least, the collective stance seems to be doing for victims what the criminal courts can't. Innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt is an exceedingly high burden of proof in cases where the legality of the activity boils down to consent, which is almost impossible to "prove" either way.

But while we rightly laud victims who tell their stories publicly, the public-opinion court can also be a fickle one that attacks as much as it defends.

Karlene Moore, a counsellor, advocate and activist for the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre, has been working with survivors for more than 20 years. She wouldn't say definitively that the justice system is irrevocably broken but she spoke of how "disheartening" it is.

"I think a lot of survivors and activists are so frustrated in the legal justice system that they have no interest in it at all," Moore said.

She said one difference between the Ghomeshi case and other high-profile ones in the past (like those of Woody Allen and Roman Polanski) is that the allegations being adjudicated in the court of public opinion involve more than just one person.

In addition to Ghomeshi, the federal Liberal party has suspended two MPs after accusations of misconduct from fellow MPs, and Bill Cosby is under attack for horrifying stories that he drugged and raped women. Even feminist du jour Lena Dunham is getting flak online over passages in her recent memoir that contain disturbing details about her relationship with her sister growing up.

The reality is that these famous figures were not random evildoers; they were dates, friends, family members, coworkers and, in some cases, sexual partners. A question is raised: Will the court of public opinion be as generous to women in less high-profile cases?

Moore says that although it's "fantastic" that some survivors are breaking their silence online, "the concerns that we have about disclosure and speaking up online about their experience is that social media can be very isolating.

"What they're getting back is not a uniform, supportive response, and they are getting back surprisingly negative and unsupportive responses from some people in their community."

And of course there will be cases where the public court attacks an innocent person and damage ensues, as was the case with musician Conor Oberst, who was accused in the comments section of the xoJane website of raping a woman when she was a star-struck teen. She later took back the story but not before considerable damage was done to his reputation, at least in the short term.

The uncomfortable truth seems to be that while, yes, police and courts can do better for victims, and I do believe, perhaps naively, that we *will* now do better for the people who bravely open their mouths to tell us things we don't want to believe, justice for victims and punishments for perps will probably never be properly doled out in the real courts. The alternate door of vigilante social-media justice has opened, and there's no turning back.

Let's all keep talking, without waiting for the next horror story to spur the discussion on.

High-profile entertainers publicly accused of sexual assault:

BILL COSBY

Former model Janice Dickinson has added her name to more than a dozen women who claim to have been drugged and sexually assaulted by Bill Cosby, citing an alleged incident in 1982. In response, NBC has shelved a planned Bill Cosby comedy, the second outlet to do so.

JIAN GHOMESHI

At least nine women and one man have come forward to accuse former radio host Jian Ghomeshi of sexual assault or harassment. The CBC fired Ghomeshi as host of its popular program Q last month.

WOODY ALLEN

Woody Allen's adopted daughter Dylan Farrow published a letter on the New York Times website in early 2014, alleging again that Allen molested her when she was a child. Police had investigated the claim years earlier but said they found no evidence of assault.

ROMAN POLANSKI

Director Roman Polanski was arrested in 1977 for sexually assaulting a pre-teen model. Even though he pleaded guilty to rape, much of Hollywood came to his defence. Polanski fled to France before being sentenced and has never been extradited.

LENA DUNHAM

Actress and writer Lena Dunham took to Twitter in outrage after being accused of sexually assaulting her sister as a child. The allegations came after the release of Dunham's memoir, in which she describes looking inside her infant sister's vagina.

CONOR OBERST

Indie rocker Conor Oberst (of Bright Eyes fame) filed libel charges in 2013 against a North Carolina woman who took to online magazine xoJane, accusing him of rape. Joanie Faircloth later recanted, and Oberst eventually dropped his lawsuit.

metro AR

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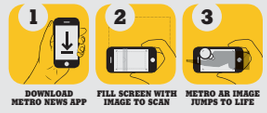

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Wander inside the mind of an existential film master

Peter Mettler. The director who takes massive ideas and turns them into films gives a class on improv in documentary film

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Filmmaker Peter Mettler hosts a DOC Institute Master Class on improvisation in documentary films tonight. CONTRIBUTED

Peter Mettler is a director known for taking massive, existential ideas and turning them into digestible, film-length visual feasts.

So explaining his process to a room of aspiring filmmakers should be a breeze, right?

"No," says Mettler bluntly. "The risk is generalizing. You use one process for one film, then you move onto the next film and you're doing the opposite."

Mettler, best known for his films Gambling, Gods and LSD, and the The End of Time, gives a master-class with the DOC Institute tonight.

Explaining the evening's theme — the art of improvisation in documentary film — he likens operating a camera to playing a musical instrument.

"Strategies become ingrained in your body when you're running the camera," he says, "like a musician playing a scale."

It's a fitting metaphor for Mettler, who got his start in the arts playing piano. He switched to film after seeing Nicolas Roeg's David Bowie vehicle The Man Who Fell to Earth as a teenager.

A Toronto native who splits his time between Hogtown and Switzerland, he continues to mix the two worlds, staging improvisational performances with guitarist Fred Frith. With Mettler editing and mixing images on the fly, the two "react" to each other live onstage.

Mettler indulges in long periods of research forming a handful of themes around which he'll build a film.

"I usually don't end up filming the things I've researched."

Instead, he keeps those themes rolling around in his head. Like his performances with Frith, an instinct is ingrained, telling him how to react to situations that occur while filming. "If, in the unfolding reality of the world, I identify these themes, that's what I follow."

Of course, that could all go out the window when it comes to his next project. "Every film has its own particular condition." **MASTER CLASS WITH PETER METTLER – TONIGHT AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE CAMERA BAR, 1028 QUEEN STREET WEST. TICKETS RUN FROM $45 TO $75. SEE DOCINSTITUTE.COM FOR DETAILS.**

Just for TV

Mettler is developing a project he hopes to turn into a TV documentary series. "I'd like to work for longer periods of time," he says. "Feature films narrow your film cycle. They're contained packages." Mettler isn't alone. From David Fincher to Martin Scorsese, filmmakers finally see episodic drama as a chance to tackle larger stories and ideas, while creating the kind of momentum that makes viewers want to keep watching. Mettler compares multiple storylines and characters employed by most programs to Shakespeare. "The idea of epic stories is an old one."

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T.I.'s advice to Iggy: Count your money

Music. Rapper has lots of hard-won wisdom to share when it comes to dealing with adversity

Rapper T.I. signed and mentored Iggy Azalea, and says he sees the young star as his little sister. GETTY IMAGES FILE

It's still hours before T.I. will be flowing like silk onstage in Toronto, but the Atlanta rapper has already found a verbal momentum that seems impossible to interrupt.

Sipping a Heineken in his hotel room prior to a recent club show at the Guvernment (which was granted a cameo by admirer Drake), T.I. is discussing how protege Iggy Azalea has thrived and thus absorbed the scrutiny of ubiquity, both from peers (Nicki Minaj and Snoop Dogg) and beyond (the Internet).

Asked how he advises her to deal with such feedback, Tip gets on a roll.

"I'm going to be biased, because I see her as my little sister," he said of the Fancy rapper, whom he signed and mentored. "I just know that for that kind of upside, you have to have some sort of negativity stitched in there somewhere.

"And if opinions and criticism from people who have no real effect on your life, if that's all you got to deal with, then I think we have other more pertinent things to worry about." He pauses, for effect, then adds with a laugh: "Like, 'What we are going to do with all this money?'"

After the punchline his pace quickens, and he raps his fist on the coffee table to punctuate his points.

"I try to tell her like that, man. Whenever you don't like something somebody said, just ask yourself: 'What am I going to do with all this money?'

"I try to rationalize it to her like that. But little sis is little sis, and she has her views and opinions and approaches to things. I respect her and support her, man, just because I know she's a good person at heart. I know that she has done nothing to harm or disrespect or do anything bad to anyone intentionally."

He curses, drawing and drawling it out, then adds: "Obviously I know that anybody, if they was thrust into the position that she has been in such a short period of time, it takes time adjusting."

And just like that, the T.I. train chugs back into the realm of his own experience.

Born Clifford Harris Jr., T.I. signed his first record deal as a teenager, released his debut album, I'm Serious, at age 21, and scored his first hit at 22 with the platinum-selling follow-up album Trap Muzik.

His velvet-plush flow smoothed the rougher edges of his street storytelling, and that talent for straddling grit and gloss only became more evident on the hit albums that followed. His latest album, Paperwork, is his ninth.

"It's crazy how old an artist can get," marvelled the rapper, 34. "That makes me seem so old."

Of course, T.I.'s high-flying career was often grounded by his tumultuous personal life.

As a teen, he dropped out of high school, sold drugs and tangled with the law. His legal issues didn't end there. He was arrested in 2007 and eventually served 11 months in an Arkansas prison on federal weapons charges.

Creatively, the sad saga inspired the introspective hit parade Paper Trail (written under house arrest), but it also dashed his once-considerable momentum.

"All the twists and turns and ups and downs and starts and stops, they've been a gift and a curse for me," he said. "You accept — or endure — the consequences that come with bad decisions."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"All the twists and turns and ups and downs and starts and stops, they've been a gift and a curse."

Rapper T.I., on the effect his legal issues have had on his musical career

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You naughty bear! Paddington runs afoul of U.K. film censors

Movies. Big-screen tale of beloved bear includes a cross-dressing Hugh Bonneville — and that's just too sexy for British film authorities

Commuters pass by a statue of Paddington Bear at London's Paddington railway station. ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British film authorities have managed to find dangerous behaviour and sexual innuendo in a film about Paddington Bear — a development the bear's 88-year-old creator says leaves him "totally amazed."

The British film board gave Paddington a parental guidance rating, saying it contains "dangerous behaviour, mild threat, mild sex references and mild bad language." The rating means the film is suitable for general viewing, but some scenes may be unsuitable for children under eight.

The board said the film's scenes of dangerous behaviour include Paddington hiding inside a refrigerator.

Michael Bond, the author who created the much-beloved children's book character, has not yet seen the family film, which follows the adventures of the talking bear travelling from Peru to London in search of a new home.

Bond told Britain's Daily Mail that he couldn't imagine what the sex references are.

The film authority on Tuesday changed its guidance from "mild sex references" to "innuendo" after the movie's distributor objected. The description refers to a comic scene of flirtation involving a man played by British actor Hugh Bonneville, who cross-dresses as a cleaning lady.

Bonneville said it was "slightly odd" for the scene to be described as containing sexual content.

"(It was) frightening maybe, but not entirely sexual," he told the BBC on Wednesday. "I challenge any viewer ... who has been offended by the film to get in touch."

The movie is being released Nov. 28 in Britain and early next year in North America. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"(It was) frightening maybe, but not entirely sexual."

Actor Hugh Bonneville, on the scene where he is dressed as a cleaning lady

Television

Bachelor chooses April over Trisha, wedding in works

Tim Warmels is no longer a bachelor. The star of The Bachelor Canada picked 27-year-old April Brockman to be his bride on Tuesday's season finale.

The second season of the series began in September with 25 eligible bachelorettes vying for Warmels' heart.

By the finale, he had narrowed it down to Brockman, a realtor from Wasaga Beach, and Trisha, a 28-year-old beauty queen from Edmonton.

The couple confirmed wedding plans are in the works. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bachelor Canada's Tim Warmels and April Brockman ROGERS MEDIA

Television

Benicio del Toro to play Cortés on HBO for Scorsese

Acclaimed American director Martin Scorsese is about to ink his third contract with HBO, according to Deadline. He'll helm Cortés, a historical drama starring Benicio del Toro.

After Boardwalk Empire and his musical project with Mick Jagger, Scorsese will once again go back in time. This time he'll delve into the 16th century, when Spanish conquistadors fought to impose their rule on South America.

After Che Guevara and Pablo Escobar, Benicio del Toro will embody another Latin American historical figure: Hernán Cortés.

This Spanish conqueror played a key role in the colonization of Central America, sealing the fate of the Aztec civilization.

The drama will tackle Cortés' ambiguous legacy, as well as his rivalry with Aztec emperor Moctezuma II. AFP

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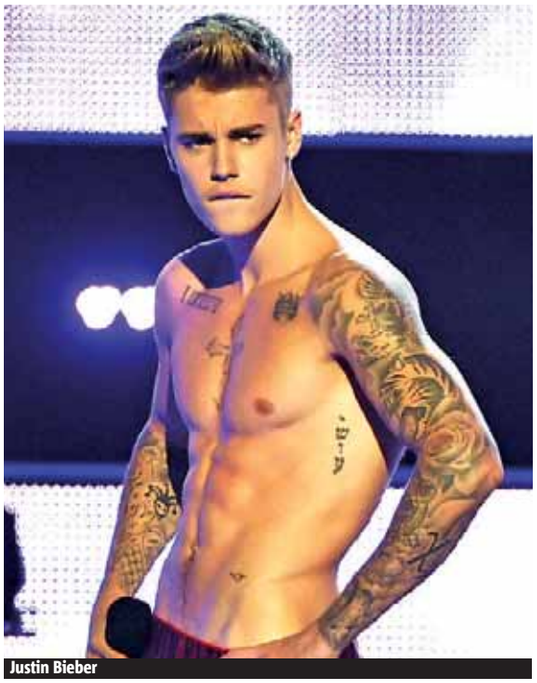

Justin Bieber

Bieber bans the bong, breaks out the Bible

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

We may be about to enter the "brainwashed into a creepy cult" phase of Justin Bieber's career — which, honestly, I didn't think was going to arrive at least until he turned 23. Canada's goodwill ambassador has reportedly been devoting his time to celebrity pastor Carl Lentz of Hillsong Church. And by "devoting," I mean he "exiled himself from friends, alcohol, weed and everything else that doesn't involve the good Lord" for two weeks at Lentz's Rancho Mirage compound near Palm Springs, at least according to TMZ. Hillsong, by the way, allegedly practises tithing, requiring members to donate 10 per cent of their income to the church. Not that I wish ill on the kid, but I'd rather the hard-partying pop star with a Napoleon complex not go all Kirk Cameron on us. Come back to the bong, Bieber. All will be forgiven.

Twitter

@BetteMidler
The Pope is raffling off his unwanted Papal gifts for charity. What?! He told me he loved that Brookstone neck massager I got him!

@ConanOBrien
A 10-second kiss can transfer 80 million bacteria, my wife told me as we shook hands.

@pattonoswalt
You were the first reason I wanted to do comedy. I'll always marvel at your genius onstage. But here's where we say goodbye, Bill Cosby.

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West

That other Kim cover that didn't break the Internet

Remember when Kim Kardashian and Kanye West were on the cover of Vogue earlier this year, and it didn't really do much for sales? Anna Wintour, as it turns out, is and was a bit conflicted about the whole thing. "Now and again one has to do things like that," she told CNN's Alina Cho during a chat at the Metropolitan Museum of Art recently. "I think if we just remain deeply tasteful and just put deeply tasteful people on the cover, it would be a rather boring magazine. Nobody would talk about us." But Anna, shouldn't you also be concerned with what it is they're saying about you?

Chris Hemsworth ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Does the Sexiest Man Alive have to do housework?

Chris Hemsworth is officially People magazine's new Sexiest Man Alive, and unfortunately it looks like the Thor star plans on using his newfound powers for evil, not good. "I'll put it on the mantelpiece just to remind (my wife) in the coming years," he tells the magazine about how he plans to use the accolade. "I can just say to her, 'Now remember, this is what the people think, so I don't need to do the dishes anymore, I don't need to change (diapers). I'm above that. I've made it now." I'd rethink that strategy if I were you, buddy.

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The Daily Dish

LOCAL WOMAN FINALLY IN THE CLEAR

Those who tremble in the face of tough stuck on food and cloudy glassware can breathe a collective sigh of relief today as OxiClean™ comes to the table with its new Dishwashing 2-in-1 Booster + Rinse Agent. It's a dynamic duo of cleaning power that removes cloudy film, food particles and spots without putting your dishes through double duty. For that first wash wow, just put two squirts in the bottom of your dishwasher and fill your rinse agent dispenser cup, then add your main detergent. Penny of Toronto, told us "…my dishes are crystal clear! I noticed a dramatic improvement."* You're welcome, Penny.

*"...my dishes are crystal clear! I noticed a dramatic improvement."**
— Penny, Toronto

Stemware finally comes out of the cupboard

In a rare move, one family found the courage to show The Daily Dish their hidden collection of antique wine glasses. When asked why it's taken so long for them to come out of the cupboard, one member of the family responded that hard water has made it difficult to be seen in public, noting cloudy film and unsightly spots. However, after using the combination of OxiClean™ Extreme Power Crystals™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks and OxiClean™ Dishwashing 2-in-1 Booster + Rinse Agent, they can finally take pride in looking fabulous.

Spatula gets new lease on life

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*All stories depicted within this advertisement are fictional in nature. *Quotes are from real consumer reviews submitted for OxiClean™ Extreme Power Crystals™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks and OxiClean™ 2-in-1 Booster + Rinse Agent on ChickAdvisor.com as of November 3, 2014. Reviewers received free product sample.*

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†Source: ChickAdvisor.com reviews for OxiClean™ Extreme Power Crystals™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks. Percent of chicks who "dig it" as of November 3, 2014. Reviewers received free sample.

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LIFE 3

PLUS HOME

We've got mad love for this Flower girl's beauty biz

Style. Drew Barrymore chats with Metro about her new fragrances, insecurity and living in the light

JANINE FALCON
Metro News in Toronto

Drew Barrymore's Flower Beauty line is available exclusively at Walmart Canada. GEORGE PIMENTEL

"I've been in the makeup chair since I was six years old," Drew Barrymore likes to say. Actor, producer, cosmetics maven, wife and mother of two little girls, right now she's focused on promoting her two-year-old brand, Flower Beauty (the name is a nod to her production company Flower Films) in Canada.

On Flower's new fragrance collection

"We thought a lot about who this woman was that we're trying to create a fragrance for. Mothers with their kids, women in the workplace, date night — we started to fall in love with this woman and get excited by her because she felt like us.

We're trying to be good to our kids, do something that we can be proud of in our jobs, and go home to get back into that romance with our husbands. So that's Cherished, Radiant and Sultry, a fragrance for every mood and the story of what women are doing out in the world."

On her three favourite Flower makeup products

"Every day is different because all I do is test and use the products. Today I'll say Mauve Over Lip Suede ($7.98), our rose-coloured lip crayon. It's matte, but so creamy and buildable, and it never feathers or cracks or gets cakey. I don't go anywhere without our Skincognito Foundation Stick ($8.98). It's really just a big fat creamy concealer stick, and it covers stuff so well without looking heavy. And our Zoom-In Ultimate Mascara ($7.98). It's so good with its adjustable three-way brush."

On balancing a multi-faceted career with family

"I'm sure most women feel guilty, like there's never enough, especially with motherhood — it's so weighty. I apply a very narrow focus: I wouldn't be able to direct and act and do the cosmetics company and have little side projects ... things had to fall off when I had kids. That's the only way I'm able to be a mother first and foremost. My kids deserve the 24/7 energy of me."

Drew's with you

"I'm very tuned into what women go through in their daily lives, how they feel inside, what positive messaging is."

Drew Barrymore
Actress and entrepreneur

On playing a role in the way a woman looks at herself

"I'm so happy to be there because I've done the mental gymnastics my whole life. I'm very tuned into what women go through in their daily lives, how they feel inside, what positive messaging is. Insecurity is not an option. There are things out there that can really be uplifting; you go toward them. That's a big part of how I want to raise my daughters. Live by example and go to the light. It's not all going to be easy — you're going to be torn by the heavy stuff in life. All the more reason to have that light within."

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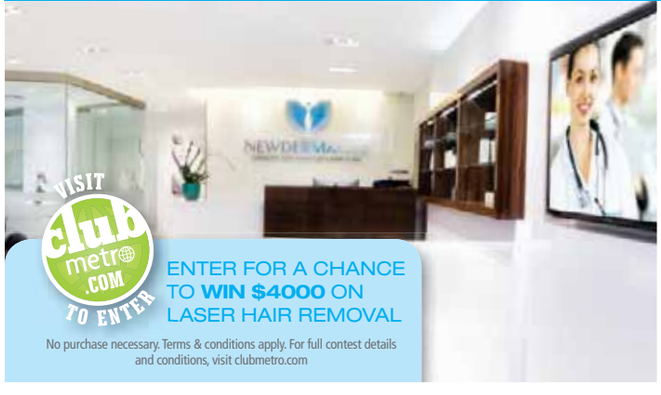

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Her inspiration
"I'm guilty ... but Kylie and Kendall Jenner, I love to see what they post on their Instagram. "

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Trends Report

As the weather gets nippier, I've been spotting people in my city wearing onesies (sometimes in elaborate animal form) as street fashion. Go online to Trends Report and tell me what you think. Should grown-ups be wearing animal onesies in public or should they stay in the bedroom?

- **Online.** metronews.ca/trends-report
- **Follow** Irene on Twitter @MetroIreneK and Instagram @kuanirene
- **Photo** boohoo.com

Behold the rise and rise of Kendall Jenner

Style. Model continues to dominate the fashion world as she signs on as the face of Estée Lauder

No doubt this young celebrity will be popping up in many more campaigns and shows in 2015. COURTESY OF ESTÉE LAUDER

Nineteen-year-old Kendall Jenner was unveiled as the latest face of Estée Lauder over the weekend, but what's behind the L.A. native's sudden rise?

The American model, who is part of the Kardashian family, famed for their reality TV show, will star in a new campaign for the beauty brand and was shot on the back of a motorbike for the print images. There's also a two-minute film which explore's Kendall's relationship with the brand and her pleasure at becoming "a part of this family." If that's not enough Kendall for you, you can also shop her edit of the brand's collections on a special section of the Estée Lauder site.

Kendall has jumped into the fashion A-league in 2014. Her runway debut came early this year in the Fall/Winter 2014 shows, in which she walked for Marc Jacobs in New York City and then followed up with the Giles show in London.

Rocking up in Paris for her first-ever season on the runway, she then managed to bag slots at Givenchy and Chanel (where her big sister Kim Kardashian's connections can't have hurt).

She also went on to work with Riccardo Tisci again, appearing as part of an ensemble cast for the Givenchy Fall/Winter 2014 campaign.

During the recent Spring/Summer 2015 fashion weeks this autumn, Jenner walked in shows for Dolce & Gabbana, Pucci, Bottega Veneta and Balmain, among many others, and repeated her performances at Chanel, Marc Jacobs and Givenchy. She's also covered LOVE Magazine and American Teen Vogue.

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A coffee, a cut and a clothing experience

Style. Frank & Oak expands on its online empire by building a brick-and-mortar location on Queen West

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
Metro News in Toronto

Frank & Oak's new retail store is located at 735 Queen St. West and is the second shop of its kind in Canada. CONTRIBUTED

Ethan Song can make any garment choice look like a blog-worthy fashion trend — even a dust-covered, Cobalt blue hard hat.

The CEO and co-founder of online retail brand Frank & Oak is sporting the protective gear as we speak during the final hours of prep for the new Queen West retail location, which officially opened to the public on Saturday.

Along with fellow co-founder and childhood friend Hicham Ratnanim, Song has revolutionized the way that men are making their fashion decisions, with an online brand that emphasizes quality and community and a business structure that promises a unique and engaging e-commerce experience.

Now, overseeing a company that processes more than 35,000 orders a month for customers in Canada and the U.S., Song speaks of Frank & Oak's expansion into the first-hand retail realm.

Frank & Oak's new Toronto location boasts a barber shop as well as a swanky coffee bar. CONTRIBUTED

Toronto has seen a Frank & Oak pop-up shop, but this is the first time it's been blessed with a permanent location. Why Toronto and why now?
Pop-ups are around for such a short period of time, and are great for exposure, but if you actually want to build a community around a space, you have to be there.

And the idea with this store concept that we created is that it's not just a store. We want it to be a place that people come a couple of times a month and chat and get to know the staff. That's the kind of place we want to build.

And why now? I would just say that it's really just the right evolution in the growth of our brand. We've always wanted to create values around the brand, and online is one way of doing it, but being in this neighbourhood has a big impact locally.

We have this philosophy where we want to be present digitally, but have a big impact locally. For example we work with local artisans for our furniture here, we want to get involved.

What concepts that have worked in the digital world, are you bringing over to the land of brick and mortar.
Content is one of the things that we're bringing to the physical world. Online we have videos, editorial content — we're bringing that in two forms. One is that we're actually going to be broadcasting from our integrated channel on the TVs around the store, so the content that you see online you're going to be able to see in the store as you browse. and the second is that we're going to hold mini-conferences and seminars within the store, so instead of watching a video of a board member, you can actually come in and meet them in person.

You've said before that you and your team always operate under the philosophy that it's always day one. Now that Frank & Oak is a couple of years old, does that philosophy still hold true, and how does it manifest itself in this shop?
The reason why we always say it's day one is to challenge ourselves to rethink what we do and not always assume that something we've done will work in the future. This store was designed from the ground up — everything you see here is new. When you bring fresh eyes to something you're actually able to innovate. For us we always say that our brand is an entrepreneurial brand, and when you're an entrepreneur, there's no end in sight.

Listen up, lads

Ethan Song on what's making waves in the world of the fashionable gentleman

- "The combination of technical material into everyday clothing — it's both a fashion statement and innovation in a textile."
- "This year the overshirt is a big element, because the entire wardrobe is more casual than it used to be. Even sport jackets are not as popular, but cardigans and overshirts are, combining and layering what you're wearing."
- "In terms of colours, we're seeing a lot of heritage colours like yellows and burgundies. And black is making a strong comeback."

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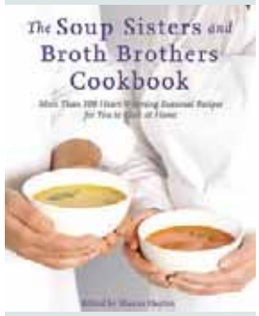
Soups to warm the heart as much as belly

Cookbook of the Week

Get your bowl ready for deliciousness



Celebrity chefs and "souper" volunteers contribute more than 100 recipes to The Soup Sisters and Broth Brothers Cookbook.

Arranged by season, the recipes include vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options, so you can prepare and share soup throughout the year. Among the recipes are Sweet Potato and Chipotle Soup, Southwestern Black Bean Soup, Rapini Soup and more.

Soup Sisters is a nonprofit enterprise that organizes volunteer soup-making events across Canada. METRO

Soup Week. This Hot and Sour Chicken Soup has a good kick of spice

"Feel free to improvise with your favourite vegetables — carrots cut in julienne strips or cremini mushrooms (baby portobellos) make excellent additions," writes Lesley Stowe, owner of Lesley Stowe Foods, who contributed this recipe to The Soup Sisters and Broth Brothers Cookbook.

Ingredients

- 8 cups (2 l) chicken stock
- 2 large boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 cup (250 ml) thinly sliced leeks (white parts only)
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) minced fresh ginger
- 5 tbsp (75 ml) Chinese black vinegar or Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) pepper
- 2 small baby bok choy, sliced
- 3 to 4 fresh radishes, thinly sliced
- 2 tsp (10 ml) sesame oil
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) cilantro leaves
- Thinly sliced red chilies to taste

1. In a medium pot, combine the stock and chicken breasts. Bring to a boil.

2. Reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, for 10 minutes.

3. Remove the pot from the heat. Let stand, covered, for 10 minutes.

4. Remove the breasts from the pot, reserving the stock. When cool enough to handle, shred the chicken, keeping the pieces a fairly good size. Set aside.

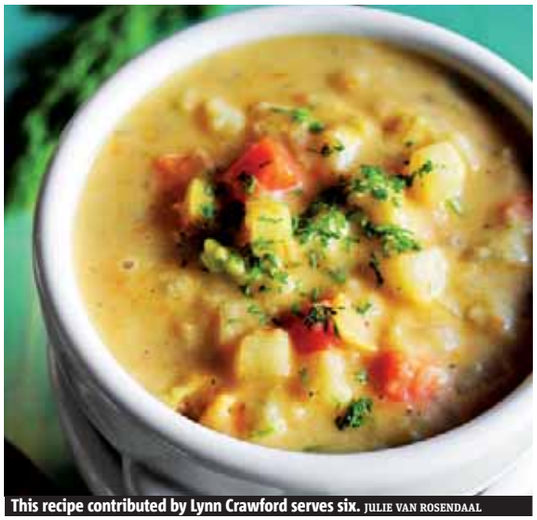
5. Strain the stock through a fine-mesh sieve into a clean pot. Add the leeks, ginger, black vinegar, cider vinegar and pepper. Bring to a boil.

6. Reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, until the leeks are tender, about 15 minutes.

7. Add the bok choy and radishes. Allow to simmer for 5 minutes. Add the shredded chicken and sesame oil.

8. Ladle up steaming bowlfuls and scatter each portion with cilantro leaves and chilies (if using) to taste. RECIPES FROM THE SOUP SISTERS AND BROTH BROTHERS COOKBOOK. COPYRIGHT © 2014 SHARON HAPTON. PUBLISHED BY APPETITE BY RANDOM HOUSE, WHICH IS A DIVISION OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE CANADA. REPRODUCED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PUBLISHER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

This recipe serves six. JULIE VAN ROSENDAAL


This recipe contributed by Lynn Crawford serves six. JULIE VAN ROSENDAAL

Potato-Cheddar Soup

1. In a heavy-bottomed pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the potatoes, carrots, celery, onion, leek, and salt and pepper to taste. Cook, stirring often, until the vegetables are beginning to brown and the onion has softened.

2. Add stock and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, until the vegetables are tender, 20 minutes.

3. Purée half of the soup until smooth. Add the puréed soup back to the pot. Stir in the cream. Reheat gently.

4. Remove the pot from the heat. Stir in the cheese and dill and season with salt and pepper to taste. Ladle up bowlfuls.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) butter
- 2 lb (1 kg) russet potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 carrots, peeled and diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1 leek (white part only), diced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 cups (1 l) chicken stock
- 1 cup (250 ml) whipping cream
- 1 cup (250 ml) shredded cheddar cheese
- 3 tbsp (45 m) chopped dill

For your phone

Illustrated Step By Step Baking Cakes (iPhone/iPad/Mac/PC; $4.99)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

From party to wheat-free cakes, this slideshow-driven, comprehensive cookbook by Dorling Kindersley includes 360 recipes supported by how-to videos for techniques and ingredient lists that sync across different devices.

Legal Matters

Seeking quiet from noisy neighbours

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

In my condominium, the neighbour with the unit directly above mine has done some renovations including new floors. The soundproofing that they have is not adequate and I can hear them padding around. This is very disruptive for me as it sometimes startles me from sleep. I have complained to the condo board, but have not received any relief. What are my options other than selling?

First of all, when a condo owner does renovations such as new flooring, they should obtain the consent of the board of directors. Was this done in this case? I would hazard a guess that it was not, because typically, when renovations are approved by the board, they will direct the owner to regulations and rules around flooring. Most condos have regulations that require floor coverings such as area rugs to a certain percentage of the floor in order to baffle the sounds of footfalls on floors and your ceiling. Would it be plausible to speak very politely with your neighbour about this problem? Remember, you have to live in the same building, so a co-operative approach would be better than raising the battle flags.

If that doesn't work, you need to get the board onside with your problem (document all communications — better in writing) and address your concern as to quiet enjoyment of your property.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca, or email him at jeff@cowanlaw.ca.

Habitat for Humanity goes to towns

Condos. Not-for-profit builder makes shift towards townhomes as a matter of economics

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

Habitat for Humanity volunteers raise a wall. In the GTA, the housing organization is now focused on townhouses rather than single family homes. CONTRIBUTED

Like most developers, Habitat for Humanity GTA is feeling the squeeze from sky-rocketing land prices. In a move designed to do more with less, the not-for-profit has pivoted away from low-rise, single-family homes and is concentrating on townhomes, stacked towns and condos for future projects.

"As an organization, our built form is really shifting towards townhouses. I think it'll be very rare for us to be doing semis or singles — it's almost a near impossibility," says Habitat's manager of land planning, Geoffrey McGrath.

Habitat for Humanity GTA is a non-profit housing organization established in 1988 with a primary mission to build simple and affordable homes in partnership with low-income families.

Habitat has previously entered into partnerships with condominium developers to provide suites for families in need. In the downtown core, they've worked with Diamond Corp., providing eight new suites at the 159 Wellesley condominium project, and with long-time philanthropic partner, Daniels Corporation, for units in their Cinema Tower project.

Unlike other affordable housing organizations, Habitat works on an ownership model. With the shift to townhomes, the organization still has big plans for the future.

"Our target is to be building 50 homes a year in the City of Toronto and 25 homes a year in York Region and 25 homes a year in Brampton-Caledon," according to McGrath,

In an effort to streamline operations, the organization combined the three regions earlier this year. "We've recently merged our three affiliates together. Now we're Habitat for Humanity GTA. The geography is much bigger."

With the ever-increasing demand for affordable housing in the GTA, McGrath says that it will take partnerships with developers and governments to make a difference. "We know the problem is massive, and obviously we're a part of solving the problem along with other not-for-profits. It's going to take a whole lot of different solutions to tackle the problem of affordable housing."

Habitat for Humanity relies on an army of volunteers to make it work. Individuals, corporate teams and community groups make up the 10,000 volunteers who contribute over 100,000 hours each year to support Habitat for Humanity. "We're nothing without our volunteers," says McGrath.

So is it really the end of low-rise development for Habitat? "If someone came along tomorrow and said here's a piece of land and it made sense to put a semi-detached house on it, I don't think we would say no," he says.

Quoted

"It'll be very rare for us to be doing semis or singles — it's almost a near impossibility."

Geoffrey McGrath, Manager, Land Planning, Habitat for Humanity Greater Toronto Area

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Urban style in Etobicoke

The Kip District. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** The Kip District
- **Builder.** Concert Properties
- **Location.** Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street West
- **Building.** 28 storeys with four-storey podium and 283 suites
- **Sizes.** From 500 to 900 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From the low $200,000s
- **Suites.** One bedroom, one bedroom plus den and two bedroom
- **Status.** Registration phase
- **Occupancy.** March 2018
- **Website.** thekipdistrict.com

Project overview

The Kip District, Concert's new five-tower community in the evolving neighborhood of Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street West, is poised to bring downtown, urban style to Etobicoke. The building's modern architecture combines extensive tower glazing with an approachable podium of glass, stone and brick.

Location and transit

The new Kipling Mobility Hub is within walking distance, including access to the TTC Bloor subway line, the GO Transit rail station and the Airport Rocket bus. Drivers have quick access to Highway 427 to the west and connections to the 400-series highways serving the GTA.

Building amenities

Ground floor amenities include a fitness studio with cardio and weight training areas, a theatre room and an outdoor terrace. There's a rooftop club room with catering kitchen, private dining area, fireside lounge, wet bar, billiards room and party room with adjoining terrace.

In the neighbourhood

There's a mix of retailers in and around the growing west end neighbourhood, and a variety of schools and parks that run alongside the Islington Golf Club. The Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks Watershed are close by, as well as the historic Kingsway Theatre and Cloverdale Mall.

Housing market

Experts cautiously optimistic

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

I'm not the only one who believes that talk of a housing market crash is exaggerated.

For years, many members of the media have predicted that our industry is headed for a significant downturn. But that sentiment was not shared by the two esteemed experts who painted a mostly hopeful picture for the GTA and Canadian economies to the 300 home-building and land development industry professionals gathered at BILD's 2015 Outlook Breakfast in Vaughan.

BMO Financial Group chief economist Douglas Porter and CMHC's senior market analyst Dana Senagama agreed that while talk of a market crash is exaggerated, they do see a slowdown in the near future for the Canadian housing market.

I was interested to learn the average age of a first-time homebuyer in the GTA today is 37 years old.

Senagama explained that with a shortage of new purpose-built rental buildings, young professionals are turning to condo rentals in the GTA. There were only 632 rental apartment starts in the GTA in 2014, compared to 10,776 condominium suites.

For the past five years, condo completions have averaged about 14,000 units, but total new household formations for the GTA in the last five years have amounted to approximately 32,000 per year. Senagama expects that number to increase to 34,000 going forward.

"The numbers are aligning, showing that there is no excess supply or overbuilding," she said, adding that there should be between 17,000 and 18,000 new condo starts for the GTA next year along with 8,000 low-rise starts.

A detailed summary of both presentations is available on BILD's official blog at bildblogs.ca.

What's hot on the condo market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. King West

Open House: King West condo suite, corner unit overlooking park. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms. Head out to 55 Stewart St., on Nov. 22 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: CAROLINE BAILE, 905-727-3154

2. Etobicoke

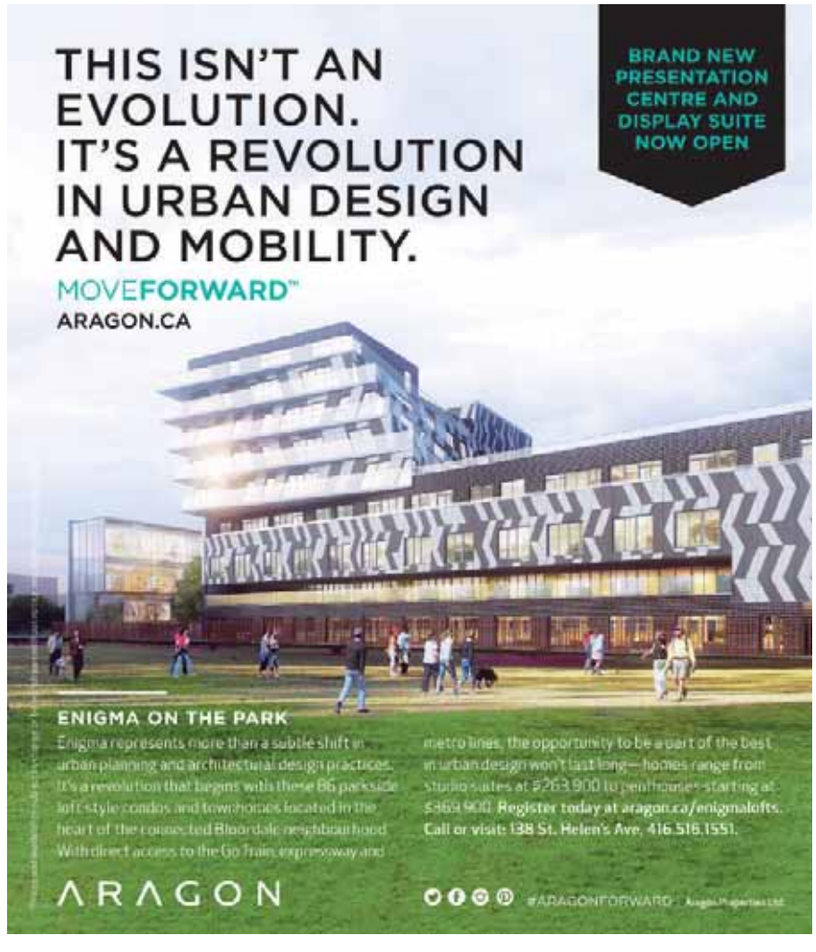
Grand Opening: Special offers at Tridel's Islington Terrace condos in the heart of Islington City Centre. Head out to 2487 Bloor St. W., in Etobicoke.

CONTACT: 416-645-8862, TRIDEL.COM

3. Downtown

Open House: Authentic loft in the Monarch Building at 436 Wellington St. W. 10-foot ceilings and exposed beams. Nov. 22 and 23 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: BRENDON BASNER, 416-762-4200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Perfect personalized and pre-loved presents

Holiday gifts. Why not give one-of-a-kind and vintage presents this year? Here's how

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Gift-giving seems to get harder each year, and the hardest part is choosing the right gift for someone special.

Not many of us would proudly admit to re-gifting or shopping for used items to present as gifts, but given thoughtfully, such gifts are bound to please the recipient.

This year I've decided to give personalized gifts I've either made or vintage items I've purchased that suit the personality and style of the receiver.

Shopping online, for example at Kijiji.ca, is an excellent starting point, as you can purchase locally, often saving on the time and cost of shipping.

Pointers to make holiday gift giving personal

Here are a few ideas for saving money on your holiday shopping while making your gift-giving more personal this year:

- **Make sure the gift you give is all about the recipient.** Will they appreciate something vintage, used or recycled? If not, stick to socks and pyjamas.
- **Gifts should always be useful and thoughtful.** If the gift isn't useful to the recipient, it's bound get re-gifted or appear in a yard sale in the near future.
- **Where you save on the gift, spend on the wrap.** There's never an excuse for poor presentation.

Vintage champagne wedding glasses are now a Friday night party staple. PINTEREST

Vintage

For this one you have to know the receiver well. Think vintage silver barware, teapots or serving trays. Look for hallmarks (stamps) and no dents or deep scratches. Polish with a good quality silver cleaner and wrap in a soft flannel cloth. Engrave a personal message to create even stronger ownership. Look for '60s espresso cup sets, cool mid-century liquor decanters or a mish-mash of vintage champagne wedding glasses.

Re-gifting

That bottle of champagne or wine you received when you hosted your last soiree is the easiest option to re-gift, but what about something more personal? If someone has complimented you on an item you no longer use (think jewelry, a silk scarf or tie), why not clean it up and pass it on? The secret to re-gifting is to tell the receiver that you once owned the item and hope it will have a happier life at their home. And a re-gifted bottle? Enhance it with the new owner's initials using etching cream, brush and stencil (easily found at craft stores). That way, the bottle will never be re-gifted again!

Personalize any type of glass with Etching Cream from Martha Stewart Crafts. MICHAELS.COM

A vintage blanket, cleaned and monogrammed, makes a useful gift for cool nights. PINTEREST

Personalize something old

Monogramming the corner of a vintage quilt or blanket instantly gives it a new lease on life. Paint an old picture frame a great trend-setting colour and insert a vacation photo; or give a vintage children's storybook (published the year of the recipient's birth) with your giftee's baby picture taped inside. All those options make for memorable gifts that won't be duplicated under the Christmas tree.

Bake or cook

I once baked a holiday pound cake and sent it to a friend in California. The overnight courier cost was $180, but I could never have purchased a gift for $200 that meant more. Not a baker? Buy a dozen plain gingerbread man cookies, some icing in a tube, sprinkles and have fun decorating! Another last minute gift idea is to make a personalized dinner gift certificate: "Good for one pot-roast dinner at my place during 2015."

Decorative and disposable boxes for giving homemade cookies. Red Cookie Boxes, set of 6, $36. WILLIAMS-SONOMA.COM

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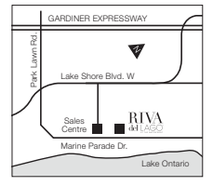

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What a bright time, it's the lights time

Thanks to advances in lighting technology, you have a lot to choose from when it comes to creative ways to deck your halls for the holidays this year. Forget about white incandescent lights and animatronic reindeer. Think lasers. Think smartphones. And hundreds, if not millions, of colour choices

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looking for something unique in holiday lighting? Projected laser lights use small spotlights to project thousands of tiny pinpoints of red, green, or red and green lights onto your home. PINNACLE LIGHTING GROUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Projected laser lights float in air

Using small spotlights, this technology projects thousands of tiny pinpoints of red, green, or red and green lights onto your home or any other hard surface. California-based BlissLights offers them for $179 or $199 US each, depending on whether the lights are in motion.

To a passerby, "at first glance, they look like traditional holiday rope lights, but actually they float freely across the house's exterior, plants and more to create a display that neighbours will think took hours to design and hang," BlissLights spokeswoman Natalia Barclay says.

There are no cords or wires involved with the laser lights, says Nick Burks of Atlanta-based Pinnacle Lighting Group.

"For people who live in the northern part of the country, it's extremely helpful when you have to take them down and it's zero degrees outside," he says. "Instead of taking a string of lights down in January, just unplug the fixture and put it in a box and you're done."

This Joy sign will light up a tabletop or mantelpiece with a rustic, yet festive, vibe. Vintage elements are a popular decor trend this holiday. HOMEGOODS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RGB lights of many colours

Single light bulbs that hold three LEDs — red, green and blue — are the secret behind a new category of holiday lights that offer up to 16 million colour combinations.

Known as RGB lights, they can be dialed up or down in a variety of ways via a smartphone app. And because their colour range is so varied, they can be kept up year-round and used for any number of holidays.

Lumenplay offers the most colours by far at more than 16 million. The exotic lighting system doesn't come cheap ($79.99 US for a starter pack) and is only available in 10-foot strands. But you can string as many as 500 lights together on one controller, which comes with the starter pack.

GE also offers RGB lighting technology with its new iTwinkle light sets and pre-lit Christmas trees, while Texas-based decorating firm Christmas Decor is offering the lights as an option for holiday customers this year.

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FAMILY FUN GUIDE

BY ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK

Where to go, what to do and how to get there. Here are this week's activity listings

SANTA'S HERE

Missed Santa at the parade this year? Catch him here and enjoy face painters, balloon artists, temporary tattoo artists and a magic show. At the Toronto Public Library branch in Eglinton Square. Nov. 21, 4-8 p.m. Go to eglinton-square.ca for more.

CHRISTMAS, SWEDISH-STYLE

This annual festival is fun-filled with the renowned Lucia pageant (and singing traditional Swedish Christmas carols), folk dancing, children's crafts, dancing around the Christmas tree, and sampling Swedish delicacies. Nov. 22-23. For more, visit Harbourfrontcentre.com.

ECOFAIR AT THE BARNS

Want to make greener choices in your home? This family-oriented event features eco exhibits and interactive workshops. Participate in an eco-themed book swap, test drive an electric car, and sample good food. Nov. 23, noon – 4 p.m. at Artscape Wychwood Barns. For more, visit ecofairtoronto.org.

TINY TALENT TIME

So you think your child can sing? Or dance? Or perform magic? Take your pint-sized talent out to not only audition their best skills, but from 11 a.m. -1 a.m., to enjoy face painting, animal balloons, games and activities, and even a red carpet for kids. At Pearson Convention Centre, on Nov. 22. Go to kidstt.com for more.

RIDE THE RAILS WITH SANTA

Head to Uxbridge this weekend and hop aboard the Santa train. Each round trip lasts about one hour and includes on-board entertainment and a visit by Santa! Santa Train Rides, York Durham Heritage Railway, Nov. 22-Dec. 14. Visit ydhr.ca/trips-santatrain.php for more.

SEE THE STARS AT KORTRIGHT

Head to the Kortright Centre for a lesson on the night sky. Learn about the stars and constellations that are sprinkled across the November night sky. Nov. 22, 7-9 p.m. Call for ticket prices and to reserve a spot at 416 667-6295. Go to kortright.org/whats-on/special-events.dot for more.

"Someday I'd like to play on Team Canada." – *Madison, age 8*

Every kid has a someday. It may be something fantastical like flying to the moon, something practical like following their dad into construction or something we all can relate to like wanting to be surrounded by love. No matter what it is, we want to give them the support they need to get there. That's why we're pledging $100 million over five years to help over a million children do just that. Let's make every kid's someday™ happen.

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Vinsanity takes hold of ACC crowd like it's 1999

Vince Carter. Jeers turn into cheers as Raptors pay homage to their former superstar with video tribute

Nearly 10 years after Vince Carter departed Toronto, leaving enraged Raptors fans in his wake, they finally stood and applauded the superstar who helped put basketball on the map in Canada.

The Raptors honoured Carter with a video tribute as part of their 20th-anniversary celebrations Wednesday, as his Memphis Grizzlies played in Toronto.

The 38-year-old was visibly moved, wiping away tears with his powder blue T-shirt. He touched a hand to his heart and repeatedly gave the thumbs-up to the crowd.

Earlier in the day, the former Raptors superstar leaned against the scoring table after the morning shootaround, and talked about his fond memories of his seven years with the Raptors.

Each time he plays in Toronto, he makes a point of looking at the banner that commemorates the first Raptors game at the ACC.

"It's still special coming here, it's still fun. It's weird, they move this flag every time, I struggle finding it," he said, with a glance up to the arena's rafters. "But when I walk in here seeing 'February 20th, 1999.' That's the first thing I think of — when this building opened.

"I just remember getting the opportunity to make history. Making the first shot. You can't take that away."

Charles Oakley found Carter, who finished with — no surprise — a dunk on that first shot.

Carter said during shootaround, he was cool with the tribute, which he found out about during a radio interview. His mother Michelle Carter was present for the pre-game video, sitting in the stands of the ACC.

"It's something that's memorable to me, to see the video right here, in the building where it all happened. You can't beat that. It's one thing to sit at home watching with your friends or watch it on a computer, but right here? It's special."

Carter has been the object of fans' fury in virtually every return trip to Toronto, but there's been a shift in perception recently. Young Canadian stars such as Andrew Wiggins, Nik Stauskas, Anthony Bennett and Kelly Olynyk grew up during "Vinsanity," and have credited the former Raptors star with sparking their interest in the game.

Carter couldn't have predicted the warm reception he would receive. He said he planned to enjoy the video, no matter what.

"It's just a special moment that you probably won't get it again. I'm going to enjoy it," Carter said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grizzlies vs. Raptors

Go to metronews.ca to find out how Vince Carter's Grizzlies fared against the Raptors on Wednesday night.

Vince Carter of the Grizzlies attacks the basket against Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas at the Air Canada Centre on Wednesday night. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Former NFL player Ben Utecht following Wednesday's hearing. MATT ROURKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lawyer asks judge to approve NFL concussion deal

The NFL on Wednesday urged a judge to approve an estimated $1-billion settlement of concussion lawsuits despite concerns raised by former players or survivors who feel left out.

The 65-year fund would resolve thousands of lawsuits that accuse the NFL of long hiding what it knew about concussions and brain injuries to keep players on the field.

The NFL now expects 6,000 of nearly 20,000 retired players — or 28 per cent — to suffer from Alzheimer's disease or at least moderate dementia someday. Their average payout would be about $190,000. The awards reach several million dollars for Lou Gehrig's disease or Parkinson's disease.

Some critics feel the fund lets the NFL off lightly, given its $10 billion in annual revenues. Others complain that there are no awards for depression, mood swings, dizziness and other problems they link to football concussions.

Costly CTE

$4M

The estates of players who died and were diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy from 2006 to 2014 can seek up to $4 million, but future deaths are excluded to avoid "incentivizing" suicide.

Former Indianapolis Colts tight end Ben Utecht testified about the five concussions he suffered during a career that earned him a 2007 Super Bowl ring. He is now married with three young daughters.

"I do have memory issues. That's why I walked away," Utecht, 33, said after the hearing. "The thought of (my daughters) losing their dad, before they actually lose their dad, is challenging." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Most improved of 2014

Bouchard gets WTA award

Canadian tennis player Eugenie Bouchard was named the WTA's most improved player of the year on Tuesday.

Bouchard reached the semifinals at three of the four Grand Slams this year and made it to the final at Wimbledon last summer. She became the first Canadian singles player to reach a Grand Slam final in the modern era. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chivas USA folding draft

TFC picks up Marco Delgado

Toronto FC picked up 19-year-old midfielder Marco Delgado in the Chivas USA dispersal draft on Wednesday.

Toronto used its 14th pick on Delgado, a home-grown player who has played 37 games at both fullback positions and in the midfield. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not even a 9-2 home loss can rattle Kessel

Always upbeat. Star comes forward to say Leafs aren't that bad

Motivational

"Obviously, our last two games haven't been great. But it's not like we're a last-place team in this league."

Leafs forward Phil Kessel

Phil Kessel was remarkably chatty the day after another embarrassing loss.

As the media assembled around Nazem Kadri on Wednesday, Kessel started chirping that the centre was plus-1 in the loss on a night when most of the team was mired in minus.

That's when the media noted that Kessel was still in the dressing room after practice, an unusual development, and then surrounded the star.

"We had two bad games. It's not the end of the world," said Kessel. "(If) we play well the next two games, then all of a sudden it's like, 'Whoa, what happened?'"

That Kessel sounded upbeat should not be criticized. That's him. If ever there was an athlete who follows the credo not to get too high with the highs, or too low with the lows, it's Kessel.

Remember, it was Kessel who told fans not to panic when the team lost on opening night. And that was his message again Wednesday, sort of.

"It can't get any worse than that, can it?" said Kessel, about the 9-2 loss. "If you look at our record (9-8-2), we have 20 points, we're right in playoff hunt."

The Leafs are a hard team to figure out. How can they can go 6-1-1 over a stretch, then drop three in a row, getting outscored 17-5 in the process? They don't do anything in half-measures. They seem to be great or terrible with very few in between.

"We're not that team (that lost to Nashville). Every team gets beat like that once or twice a year," said Kessel. "We have to change that."

The question is how? How can the Leafs turn things around? There isn't a switch that can be turned off or on.

The solution isn't, apparently, to fire coach Randy Carlyle. So said all the players, and so said GM Dave Nonis, who watched a 90-minute practice alongside president Brendan Shanahan, assistant GM Kyle Dubas and senior adviser Cliff Fletcher. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Phil Kessel against the Penguins on Friday in Toronto. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

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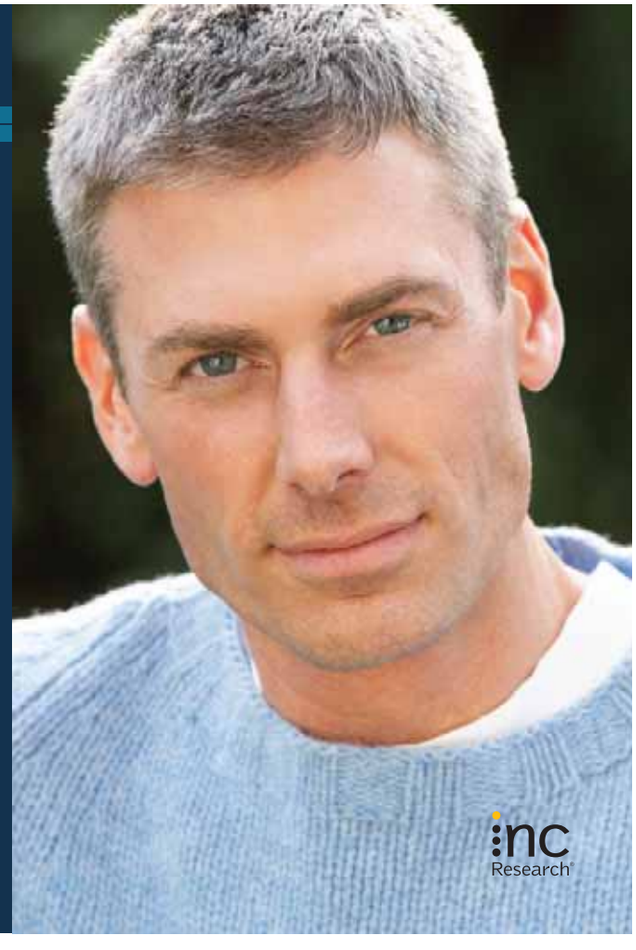

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After the Russ fuss

MLB. Despite signing of catcher Martin, Jays still have plenty of off-season questions to answer

Russell Martin will be introduced as Toronto's new catcher on Thursday as the Blue Jays celebrate their first big splash of the off-season.

But while the 31-year-old — who inked the second-largest contract in franchise history — is the marquee move of the moment, GM Alex Anthopoulos has several boxes left to tick on his off-season to-do list.

Here's a look at what he may have up his sleeve:

Trade Dioner Navarro

This may be the obvious step, but it's no guarantee. Navarro, the incumbent catcher who will earn a reasonable $5 million in 2015, could return as a DH, but he figures to have more value via trade. The Rays, Dodgers, Cubs, Angels and Rangers are all potential suitors.

Re-sign Melky Cabrera

The fact the Jays heavily back-loaded Martin's deal — he will make just $7 million next season — means they could theoretically have the payroll flexibility to re-sign Cabrera. The sticking point is believed to be Cabrera's desire for a lengthy five-year deal. But with the Jays already planning to use rookies Dalton Pompey and Kevin Pillar in centre field, can they afford not to bring back Cabrera?

Are the Jays willing to give Melky Cabrera a five-year deal to shore up left field at Rogers Centre? GETTY IMAGES

Bolster bullpen

The Jays need to add a late-inning power arm or two to replace Casey Janssen as closer. The biggest name they have been linked to is lefty Andrew Miller, who struck out more than 42 per cent of batters he faced last season. Another reliever the Jays have been linked to is right-hander Francisco Rodriguez, who had 44 saves last season with Milwaukee.

Second base

The Jays may decide to forge ahead with Maicer Izturis, Ryan Goins and — perhaps after more time in the minors — Devon Travis, a former top prospect of the Detroit Tigers who was acquired in the Anthony Gose trade. But Anthopoulos is expected to go after a veteran to stabilize the infield. Asdrubal Cabrera and Jed Lowrie — both of whom have mostly played shortstop in their careers — are the top free agents who could play the position. Anthopoulos hasn't ruled out acquiring a third baseman and shifting Brett Lawrie to second, but Lawrie insists any chance he gets that he would prefer to remain at the hot corner.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Try nom ties bow on great year

Magali Harvey's banner rugby year has gotten even better. The 24-year-old from Quebec City, already named the Women's Player of the Year, has been nominated for the International Rugby Players' Association Try of the Year. Scan the image with your Metro News app for video of Harvey's field-spanning try in August's World Cup semifinal. JORDAN MANSFIELD/GETTY IMAGES

Soccer

Papa Messi quells concerns about Leo's leaving Barca

Lionel Messi's father, who acts as the player's agent, has downplayed the stir his son caused by hinting at an exit from Barcelona.

Lionel Messi GETTY IMAGES

Jorge Messi told Barcelona's La Vanguardia newspaper "the plan is to stay here, but since people read between the lines they exaggerate."

He says "Leo is happy, but if one day the club says, 'We have an offer for you, we want to sell you,' well, we would have to study it."

Lionel Messi said Tuesday that he would like to stay at Barcelona but "sometimes not everything happens the way you want."

The 27-year-old Messi, Barcelona's all-time leading scorer, is under contract until 2018.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AUGMENTED REALITY

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→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There is nothing to be gained and a great deal to be lost if you act purely on emotion. It will pay you to wait a day or two before deciding what to do about a relationship.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Concentrate on what you are good at and ignore everything else. You may find that difficult as the planets seem determined to disrupt your routine.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Ignore those who urge you to take a more "balanced" approach. If you want something enough you must go out and get it.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
A little of what you fancy will do you good today, but don't go overboard and consume too much or you could make yourself sick.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
No matter how difficult it has been resolving a dispute, today's cosmic picture will help you find the compromise. You may have to give a little more than you expected.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Pretend you have faith in someone's abilities, even if you doubt they are up to the job. If you say the wrong thing now you may destroy their confidence completely.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Affairs of the heart are vital but as relationship planet Venus squares up to Neptune, planet of illusion, you are advised not to take them seriously.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Some situations call for subtlety, some call for assertiveness, but whatever circumstances you face over the next 24 hours you'll come up smelling of roses.

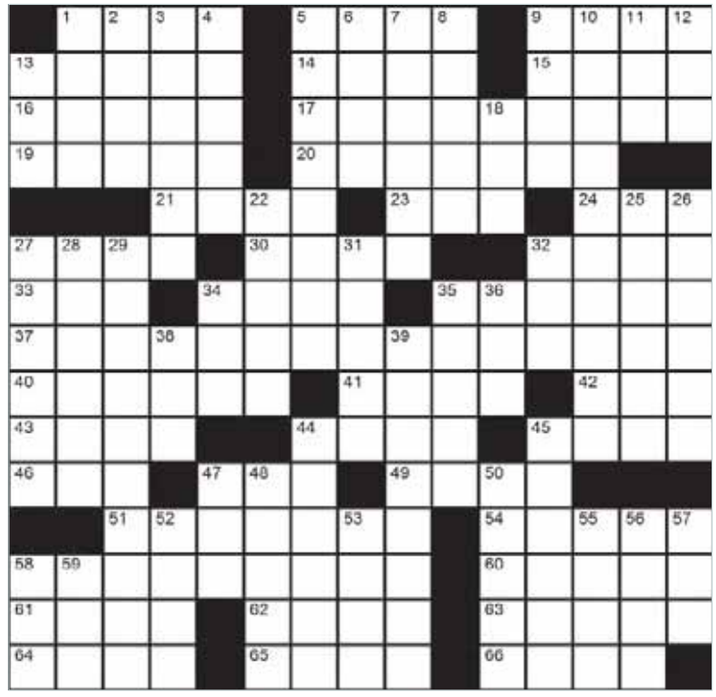
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It appears someone's grabbed your attention but don't give them the impression you are desperate. If you do all the chasing at the beginning it will be the pattern for the future.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
What you do today is maybe not so important, but how you do it is. Throw yourself in 100 per cent. Your passion will do your reputation no harm at all.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Caution is needed today when dealing with employers. But that does not mean you have to put up and shut up. Be subtle in your criticisms.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It may at times seem as if you are the only one who thinks logically but something will convince you today that you are not alone. Others share your values and opinions.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



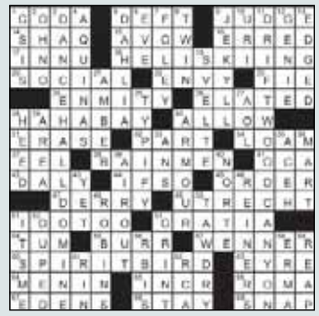
Across

1. Not his
5. Boring
9. Cracked a bit
13. Break a Commandment
14. Latvia's capital
15. Thespian's request
16. __ in Wonderland
17. Outdoor skating spot in Halifax: 2 wds.
19. Contradict
20. Creature like #58-Across
21. Bus. bigwig
23. Lettered drug
24. Tic-__-Toe
27. Garden waterer
30. __ poker
32. Fun time
33. __ & Dec ("Britain's Got Talent" hosts)
34. Process part
35. Ancient Olympic deity
37. Moraine and Peyto in Banff National Park = __-__ __
40. Lowest amts.
41. Grannies: German
42. 'Hero' suffix
43. Supersonic interceptor aircraft developed-then-halted in Canada in the 1950s, __ Arrow
44. Thurs. followers
45. "Meet Me __ __. Louis" (1944)
46. Prefix with 'classical'
47. Montreal Mrs.
49. Hockey: __ pads
51. Quebec singer Mitsou's surname
54. Icelandic singer
58. "Star Wars" (1977) character
60. TV show: French
61. Had on
62. "Is it just __ __..."
63. Story, in a house, in French
64. "__ Congeniality" (2000)
65. "_ __" ('60s espionage series)
66. Zilches#

Down

1. Mittens-mending reason
2. Malefic
3. Cook's secret
4. Ranch animal
5. '80s sitcom, "Punky __"
6. Red carpet auto
7. From times-of-yore
8. Hears the herald angels!
9. Skincare stuff
10. Bee Gees '75 hit: 2 wds.
11. Ms. Gasteyer
12. Faith [abbr.]
13. Hailed ride
18. Care
22. "Melrose Place" star Rob
25. Canadian apple juice brand
26. Broom __
27. J.R. Ewing portrayer Larry
28. TV: Happening now, not taped: 2 wds.
29. Hamilton folk singer (b.1949 - d.1983) who wrote "Northwest Passage": 2 wds.
31. __ __ the challenge (Ready to take things on)
32. Red carpet accessory
34. Actor Alastair
35. Add _ __ of salt
36. Polite abbreviation
38. Techie exec.
39. Envoy
44. Property separators
45. Chin __, Vancouverite in The New Royales
47. World Series org.
48. "The Golden Girls" city
50. Norwegian dramatist Henrik
52. Lamb mothers
53. Late-'80s flick, "Rent-_-__"
55. Unwritten
56. Sets up
57. Vancouver: Sam __ Building (Built in 1913, it's famous for its narrow structure)
58. Valley, in Wales
59. Masses, with Polloi

Yesterday's Crossword

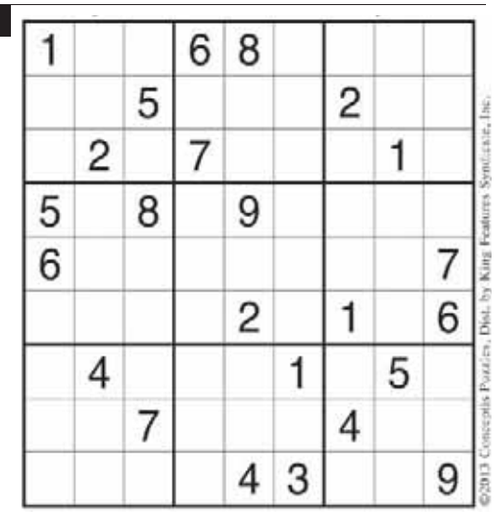


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

5	7	1	3	8	2	6	4	9
9	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	8
8	4	6	7	9	1	3	5	2
6	9	2	8	7	5	4	3	1
3	1	8	9	6	4	5	2	7
4	5	7	2	1	3	8	9	6
7	8	5	1	4	9	2	6	3
1	3	4	6	2	8	9	7	5
2	6	9	5	3	7	1	8	4

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